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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX!
MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ!
HEMBECK! AND MORE!
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Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Something's been bugging me for awhile, and I'll tell you exactly what it is. It's a subtle form of prejudice being practiced by well-intentioned but misguided comic-book lovers. It's those wonderful souls that persist in calling avid Marvel followers, "Marvel Zombies."

What makes this all the more insidious is these name-callers hide behind the noble cause of attempting to enlighten the poor "uninformed Marvel Masses." They try to make you feel stupid if you haven't made it your duty to sample every single comic book currently being published. Well, of course there are lots of other fine comics being published by lots of other fine comic-book publishers. But is anyone calling their loyal followers stupid names? Has anyone ever been called a DC Deviant? Or an Eclipse Egghead? Or a Foolish First Follower? Or an Unconscious Comico Consumer? Of course not! They'd be insulted! Just as anyone who is called a Marvel Zombie is being insulted!

The worst part of all this name-calling is that in most cases it produces the exact opposite results the best-intentioned name-caller may have desired. Calling someone a Marvel Zombie usually forces that person to defend mighty Marvel with even more fervor than ever before! So who really wins and what is really gained? It just makes us all look very foolish. For years we've been trying to promote a mature image of comics, and now we've got to deal with people who think name-calling is a positive tool of persuasion.

So to all the name-callers I say, in the words of a former late-night talk show hostess, "Grow up!"

—*Jim Salicrup*

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MARVEL®

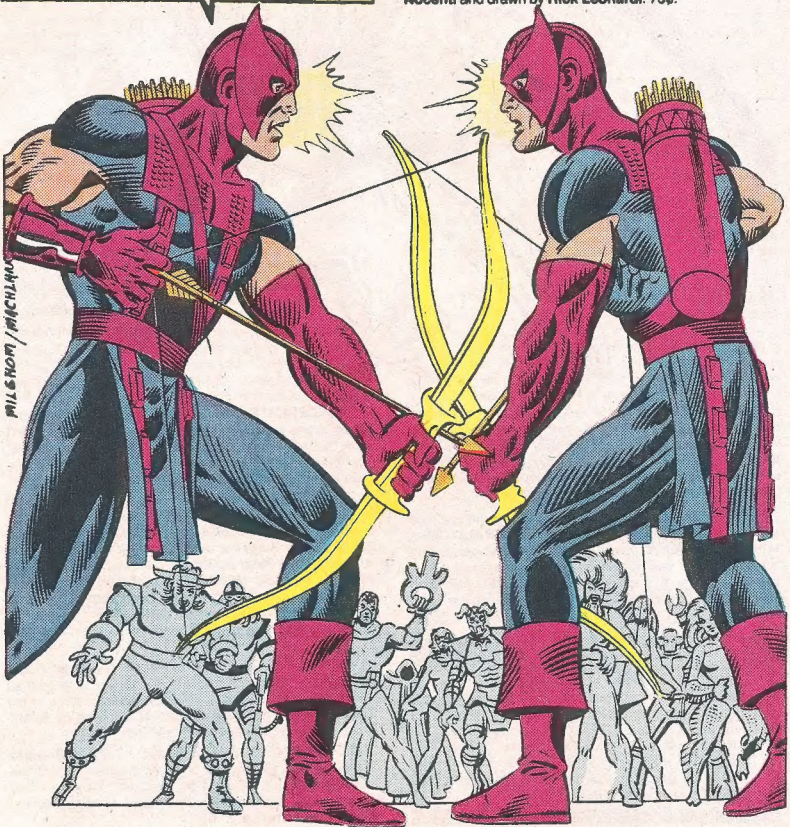
COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star**, and **New Universe** titles bearing a **December** cover date.

A solo series for **Hawkeye** in **SOLO AVENGERS! Iron Man** vs. everybody in armor! **The New Mutants** go out for a milkshake! And that's just a hint of the wild doings you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping August 4
On Sale August 25

☐ **DAREDEVIL #249** — Torn from today's headlines: a tale of children coping with the threat of nuclear destruction! And what will be the greater threat to **Matt (Daredevil) Murdock** — the court order to shut down his legal clinic or the masked assassin called **Bullet**? Written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **Rick Leonardi**. 75¢.



Hawkeye vs. . . . Hawkeye in WEST COAST AVENGERS. Pencils by Al Milgrom ks by Mike Machlan.

Bird Brain tries to fly the coop in THE NEW MUTANTS. Pencils by Bret Blevins, inks by Terry Austin.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #58 — What could be more normal than a bunch of teenagers going out for a milkshake? Well, when the teenagers are the **New Mutants** and **Bird Brain**, you know the experience is going to be anything but normal! "Grounded" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #33 — Beginning an epic tale which spans all three of this month's **SPIDER-MAN** titles. Why is the **Kingpin**'s right hand man, **the Arranger**, having a woman committed to an asylum? And why does it look like **Spider-Man**'s going to join her?! Join writer **Ann Nocenti**, penciler **Cynthia Martin**, and inker **Steve Leialoha**, as they ask, "What's the Matter with Mommy?" 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **PSI FORCE** #14 — **Stalker** may be the newest member of **Psi Force**, but that doesn't mean the others have accepted him. When **Tyrone** is kidnaped, **Stalker** embarks on a solo quest to rescue him. But does **Stalker** do it to gain the group's trust, or is there another reason? Written by **Danny Fingeroth**, penciled by **Bob Hall**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #18 — The **Thundercats** are delighted to add another member to their band. But they don't know that he's actually **Mumm-Ra** in disguise! "Pumm-Re" is written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #13 — It's the first and second generation **Moriturl** versus their third generation counterparts in this double-sized spectacular! And who's that guy in the **Punisher** outfit? "Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye" is written by **Peter B. Gillis** and drawn by **Brent Anderson**. Plus a special **MORITURI UNIVERSE** feature and a side-splitting look at "How Peter and Brent Create and Destroy STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI!" Written by **Peter B. Gillis** and drawn by **Brent Anderson**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #27 — The **West Coast Avengers**' war against **Scorpio** swings into high gear as they take on **Scorpio** and his deadly android allies — the **Zodiac**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #8 — The **Joes** travel to Southeast Asia to rescue a captured American agent, but find themselves trapped in an "Ambush!" How can they possibly survive? Written by **Larry Hama** and penciled and inked by **Herb Trimpe**. $1.00.

Titles Shipping August 11
On Sale September 1

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #336 — After three months among the missing, **Steve Rogers** is back! But he may regret it when he meets the ecological terrorist **Brother Nature**! What will **Steve** do now that he's no longer **Captain America**? Will his friends, **the Falcon, Nomad,** and **D-Man** be able to help him? "Natural Calling" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #1 — The debut of the series you've been demanding! Now you can read the solo adventures of **Hawkeye** every month and also catch up on the solo exploits of his Avenging buddies!

First up: **Hawkeye** joins the circus, only to encounter a villain from his distant past in "Here Comes Hawkeye!" Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**.

And what's **Mockingbird** doing while her hubby's at the circus? Why, she's fighting the very same villain! "Listen to the Mockingbird" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #295 — Part 2 of the story begun in this month's **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN:** What would you do if you were **Spider-Man** but nobody believed you? **Peter Parker's** going to have to find the answer if he's ever going to get out of the **Kingpin's** insane asylum in "Mad Dogs!" Written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **Cynthia Martin**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #9 — Two action-packed epics for the price of one!

Things looked bad when **Dagger** ran away from **Cloak**. But the fur really starts to fly when she learns about the good life from the **Black Cat**! "The Felonious Feline" is written by **Terry Austin**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**.

Also: Forced to ally himself with the black magician **Kaluu, Doctor Strange** continued to battle the evil forces that he himself set free! Things don't look good for the Master of the Mystic Arts in "Africa Genesis!" Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #53 — Guest-starring **Wolverine**! **Alpha Flight's** past comes back to haunt the team when they battle the savage **Bedlam** — a menace **Alpha Flight's** founder created! And as if that weren't enough, the **Alphans** also have to fight the **Derangers**! "Blast from the Past" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Jim Lahey**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

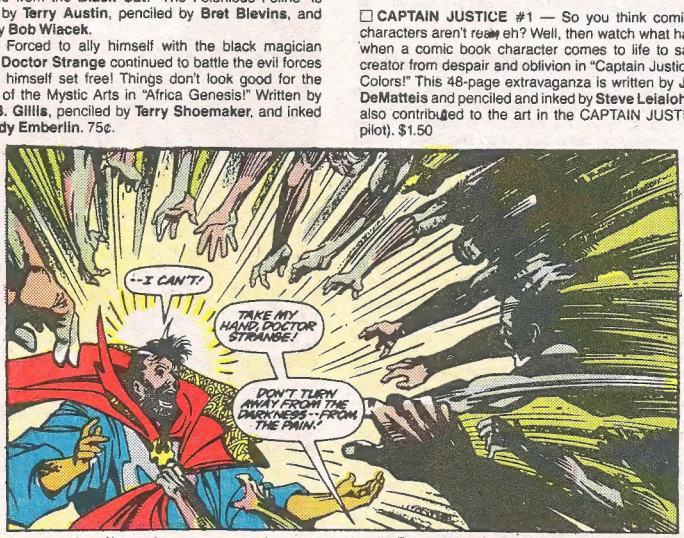
☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #34 — Tell your friends! Tell your enemies! The secret of the **Sage's** dog's name is revealed! So what, you say? That's what **Groo** said — and wait'll you see what happens to him! Creator and artist, **Sergio Aragones**, cryptographer, **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #21 — This news comes straight from the horse's mouth — **Heathcliff's** become the world's first feline jockey! How will the horse racing world survive what happens in "Horse Feathers"? Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **STAR COMICS MAGAZINE** #7 — Fun, adventure, and loads of laughs await all Star fans! The classic tales from **HEATHCLIFF, MADBALLS, TOP DOG,** and **CARE BEARS** are re-presented in this special anthology edition. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **CAPTAIN JUSTICE** #1 — So you think comic book characters aren't real, eh? Well, then watch what happens when a comic book character comes to life to save his creator from despair and oblivion in "Captain Justice: True Colors!" This 48-page extravaganza is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and penciled and inked by **Steve Leialoha** (who also contributed to the art in the CAPTAIN JUSTICE TV pilot). $1.50



Everyone wants to get his hands on Dr. Strange in STRANGE TALES. Pencils by Terry Shoemaker, inks by Randy Emberlin.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #142 — Fleeing the scene of calamitous defeat on the battlefield, **Conan** and his fellows discover a village of farmers who've been blinded by a cruel warlord. The Cimmerian and his hardbitten crew of barbarian warriors train the villagers for the warlord's return! It's savage action with a twist in "Blind Vengeance!" Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. Cover by **Joe Jusko**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

Titles Shipping August 18 On Sale September 8

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #57 — There's a *new* **Captain America**! What happened to the old one? And what's in store for them both? **Mark Gruenwald** has the answers, and so will you after you read this issue! Plus: **J. Marc DeMatteis** gives the lowdown on the incredible new **BLOOD** Limited Series! And **CAPTAIN JUSTICE** leaps from television to the comics! Also: An expanded **Stan's** Soapbox, the Marvel Trivia Quiz, and all of the things you've come to expect. Direct Sales only. 50¢.

new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7 # 14** — **Charly** quits the **D.P. 7**! What will the consequences for the group be when she joins the all-black group of paranormals, the **Black Clique**? Will **Charly** be able to resist the **Black Clique's** demands that she get revenge on her friends? "Cliques" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #14 — The venom from a poisonous snake bite would kill us. But what would it do to the alien **Justice**? Written by **Sandy Plunkett**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #286 — From the pages of **ALPHA FLIGHT**, **Marinna's** on hand when the **Avengers** battle the **Pixer** . . . or do they? "The Fix Is On" is written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #338 — A "benevolent" alien arrives on Earth to cure all suffering — by killing the sufferers! When she decides to "help" **Bruce Banner**, it means a life-or-death struggle for the **Hulk** in "Mercy Killing!" Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Jim Sanders III**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #206 — Re-presenting **Spider-Man** and **Thor's** desperate struggle against the awesome **Living Monolith** from **MARVEL TEAM-UP** #70! "Whom Gods Destroy" is written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Byrne**. Also: A new tale of **Peter Porker the Spectacular Spider-Ham** written by **Michael Eury** and drawn by **Ron Zalme**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #6 — The last time the **Skrulls** battled the **Kree**, it took all of their shape-changing abilities just to survive. But last year, the **Skrulls** lost those abilities and the balance of power shifted. Now the **Kree** have declared war anew — and the **Silver Surfer** and **Mantis** are caught in the middle! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

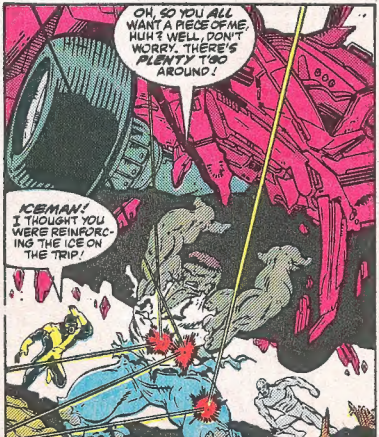
☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #224 — **Storm** and **Naze** embark on the long-awaited quest to find **Forge** and regain **Storm's** mutant powers! And just wait till you see who the story's true villain is! "Dark by Dawn" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **AIR RAIDERS** #2 — **Eeleta** must choose: complete her espionage mission for the **Air Raiders**, or find her father! Which shall she decide — and who shall she doom? Written by **Howard Mackie** and penciled by **Kelly Jones**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #201 — An untold tale of **Conan's** youth. When the Gunderman **Haderungd** didn't pay the young barbarian for his services, he didn't realize what he was getting into! **Conan** wants his pay . . . or **Haderungd's** blood! Before he can claim it, though, **Conan** must face untold horrors as he leaps "Into the Black Pit!" Written by **Jim Owsley** and **Andy Kubert** and drawn by **Andy** and **Adam Kubert**. $1.00.

☐ **THE FLINTSTONE KIDS** #3 — **Dreamchip Gemstone** creates a magic formula to make **Freddy Flintstone** fall in love with her! Poor **Wilma** . . . poor **Freddy** . . . and come to think of it, poor **Dreamchip**! "Love Potion #8½" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **FOOFUR** #3 — **Foofur's** home is about to be sold. In its place developers plan to create a super-duper condo. Will **Foofur** take this lying down? The developers discover how much doggone trouble they've stirred up in "History Defeats Itself." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Ben Brown** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.


OH, SO YOU ALL WANT A PIECE OF ME, HUH? WELL, DON'T WORRY. THERE'S PLENTY TO GO AROUND!
ICEMAN! I THOUGHT YOU WERE REINFORCING THE ICE ON THE TRIP!
I GUESS I KINDA FORGOT.

There's more action than you can shake a truck at in THE INCREDIBLE HULK. Pencils by Todd McFarlane, inks by Jim Sanders.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #66 — A group of **Joes** is being held captive in Boravia! So **Stormshadow**, **Scarlett**, and **Billy** have invaded the country — and they're not leaving before they get their captive comrades out! "Tenth Letter" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #25 — The chronicles continue to unfold with one of the greatest tales in Marvel history! Witness the **Fantastic Four's** first meeting with **Galactus** and the **Silver Surfer**! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with a cover by **Art Adams**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **SILVERHAWKS** #3 — The title of the story is "Clementine" and it's the wild and wooly space age adaptation of the Old West song — **Silverhawks** style! Written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Mike Witherby**, and inked by **Fred Fredericks**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **MARSHAL LAW** #1 — The war is over. San Francisco lies in ruins. And the government-created super hero soldiers are coming home. But only **Marshal Law** can stop them from destroying their homeland as well! Don't miss the debut of this sensational new Epic comics series in "The Cost!" Written by **Pat Mills** and drawn by **Kevin O'Neill**. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.95.

☐ **CONAN THE REAVER** — The promise of treasure lures **Conan** to Turan, but the path to that treasure might just cost the barbarian his life! Can **Conan** overcome a terrifying monster and the horde of assassins known only as the Red Mist? Written by **Don Kraar** and drawn by **John Severin**. A Marvel Graphic Novel. $6.50.

Titles Shipping August 25
On Sale September 15

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #309 — It's the final showdown between the **Fantastic Four** and the Mideastern tyrant **Fasaud**! And you won't believe your eyes when you see the incredible change in store for **Ms. Marvel**! "Dunno" is written by **Steve Englehart** and drawn by **John Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #225 — Remember all those armored foes **Iron Man's** been fighting lately? Well, it seems they've been using circuits stolen from **Iron Man's** own armor! And when the **Golden Avenger** finds out, he's none too happy! **Iron Man** goes after everybody who wears armor, and he's out for blood! And as if that weren't enough, this issue also features a guest appearance by **Ant-Man**! You can't afford to miss this double-sized extravaganza! Written by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #13 — **Ed Marks** may be on his way home, but he's not there yet! Join him as he witnesses the most insidious chemical killer of the Vietnam War — Agent Orange! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Bob Camp**. 75¢.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #133 — Concluding the story begun in this month's **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** and **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**. **Spidey** busts out of the **Kingpin's** insane asylum! But he's not in the clear yet! "Power Play" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Cynthia Martin**, and inked by **Steve Leialoha**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #386 — **Thor** tries to return to Earth. But with the Rainbow Bridge no longer holding Asgard and Earth together, there's no telling where he's going to wind up! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢

☐ **X-FACTOR** #23 — **X-Factor** rescues the kids kidnaped by **the Right**. But who can rescue **X-Factor** when *they're* kidnaped by **Apocalypse**? Major events are on their way, so get in on the ground floor while you can! Written by **Louise Simonson** and penciled by **Walt Simonson**. 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #16 — From the pages of **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #109: Re-presenting the **X-Men's** first battle with Canada's second super hero! He's called **Weapon Alpha**, but you know him better as . . . **Guardian**! "Homeward the Heroes" is written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **John Byrne**. Plus an all-new tale by writer **Chris Claremont** and artist **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #29 — The **Elves** prepare to do battle with their most dangerous foes, the **Trolls**, as we near the dramatic climax of this Epic series! "The Game of Two-Edge" is written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **MADBALLS** #7 — **Dr. Frankenbeans** unleashes his greatest, and wackiest, creations — **Madballs** with arms and legs! Wait until you see them hit the road in their Madmobile and Rollercyle! "Busy Bodies" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS** #35 — Are the ancient legends true? Has the mythic **Man of Iron of Stanham Castle** returned? The second part of a totally different **Transformers** tale originally presented in the United Kingdom is written by **Steve Parkhouse** and drawn by **John Ridgway**. $1.00.

☐ **ALIEN LEGION** #1 — It's an all-new beginning for **Nomad Squadron** — but it looks like it might also be the end! **Captain Sarigar** is determined to find out what happened to his missing squadron . . . even if he has to resign from the **Legion** to do it! "Dead and Buried" is plotted by **Alan Zelenetz**, scripted by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #7 — The classic adventures from **G.I. JOE** #s 18, 19, and 20 return in the special pocket-sized anthology series. "Destro Returns!," "Joe Triumphs," and "Home Is Where The War Is!" are written by **Larry Hama** and **Steve Grant**, penciled by **Geof Isherwood**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino** and **John Tartaglione**. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION** #19 — Get the low-down on more of your favorite dead characters as the Book of the Dead continues! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with art by **Murphy Anderson**, **Wayne Boring**, **Mark Bright**, **June Brigman**, **Mike Zeck**, and blamed near everybody in the Marvel Bullpen! 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #7 — Re-presenting three classic stories from the pages of **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**! Relive the Cimmerian's battles with foes ranging from human to supernatural! "The Black Hand of Vengeance" is from **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #20, "The Monster of the Monoliths" is from #21, and "The Shadow of the Vulture" is from #23. Each is written by **Roy Thomas** and penciled by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. A black and white Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #4 — The ultimate **AVENGERS** reference book continues! Cross-referenced descriptions of everyone and everything in **THE AVENGERS** #67–90! Every cover reproduced in full color! And all in one handy 48-page package on high-quality Baxter paper! Direct sales only. $2.95

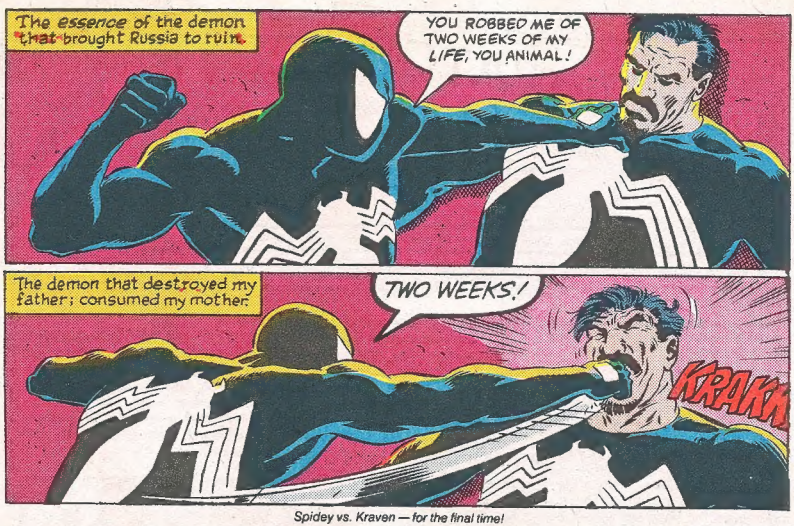
MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #11 — by **Carragonne, Wilson,** and **Bulanadi.**
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #5
THUNDERCATS #19
CONAN THE KING #44 — by **Kraar, Docherty,** and **Bator.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #14 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #54 — by **Mantlo** and **Lee.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #33 — by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan.**
TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE Trade Paperback — by **Budiansky, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
SOLO AVENGERS #2 — stories by **DeFalco, Bright,** and **Rubinstein** and **Malonee, Hall,** and **Sienkiewicz.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #296 — by **Michelinie** and **Saviuk.**
STRANGE TALES #11 — stories by **Austin, Blevins,** and **Wiacek** and **Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #35 — by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEADMASTERS #4 — by **Budiansky, Springer, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
POWER PACK #34 — by **L. Simonson** and **Bogdanove.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #7
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #143 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
MOEBIUS Graphic Novel #3 — by **Moebius.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #58 — Spotlighting the Fall of the Mutants.
THE AVENGERS #287 — by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #15 — by **Gruenwald.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #339 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #15
MARVEL TALES #207 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Hunt** and **Mellor** and **Albelo.**
SILVER SURFER #7 — by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #225 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
AIR RAIDERS #3 — by **Mackie** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #202 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
THE MUPPET BABIES #17 — by **Kay** and **M. Severin.**
BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY #2 — by **Manak, Colon,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE #67 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
MARVEL FANFARE #36 — by **Zelenetz** and **Vess.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #310 — by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #226 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #14 — by **Murray,** and **Vansant.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #134 — by **David** and **S. Buscema.**
STARBRAND #11 — by **Byrne** and **Palmer.**
THOR #387 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #24 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #14
CLASSIC X-MEN #17 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Bolton,** and **Austin.**
ELFQUEST #30 — by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #36 — by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #7
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #7 (Trade paperback)

Look for the Starjammers in CLASSIC X-MEN.

Titles Shipping September

DAREDEVIL #250 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #59 — by **L. Simonson** and **Muth.**
PSI FORCE #15
THE PUNISHER #5 — by **Baron** and **Janson.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #34 — by **Shooter, S. Buscema,** and **Colletta.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #28 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**


The essence of the demon that brought Russia to ruin.
YOU ROBBED ME OF TWO WEEKS OF MY LIFE, YOU ANIMAL!
The demon that destroyed my father; consumed my mother.
TWO WEEKS!
KRAKK

Spidey vs. Kraven — for the final time!

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #5 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #8 — by **Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
HELLRIDER #1 — by **Jusko.**
BLOOD #1 — by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**
I WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY Graphic Novel — by **Shooter, Zelenetz, Ryan,** and **Colletta.**

Titles Shipping October

DAREDEVIL #251 — by **Nocenti** and **Romita, Jr.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #60 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
PSI FORCE #16
THE PUNISHER #6 — by **Baron** and **Janson.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #35 — by **David** and **S. Buscema.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #29 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #9 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
THUNDERCATS #20
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #15 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #55 — by **Mantlo.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #338 — by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan.**
SOLO AVENGERS #3 — stories by **DeFalco, Bright,** and **Rubinstein** and **Malonee** and **Ridgway.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #297 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane.**
STRANGE TALES #11 — stories by **Austin, Blevins,** and **Wiacek** and **Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #36 — by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #22
G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #4
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #8
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #144 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
POWER PACK #35 — by **L. Simonson** and **Bogdanove.**
DAREDEVIL Trade Paperback
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #59
THE AVENGERS #288 — by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #16 — by **Gruenwald.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #340 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #16
MARVEL TALES #208 — by **Claremont, Byrne** and **Hunt.**
SILVER SURFER #8 — by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #226 — by **Claremont** and **Silvestri.**
AIR RAIDERS #4 — by **Mackie** and **Jones.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #203 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
G.I. JOE #68 — by **Hama** and **Wagner.**
FLINTSTONE KIDS #4
FOOFUR #4
SILVERHAWKS #4
MARSHAL LAW #2 — by **Mills** and **O'Neil.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #311 — by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **Sinnott.**
IRON MAN #227 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #15 — by **Murray,** and **Vansant.**
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #135
CLASSIC X-MEN #18 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Bolton,** and **Austin.**
THOR #387 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #25 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
MADBALLS #8
ELFQUEST #31 — by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #37 — by **Budiansky.**
ALIEN LEGION #2 — by **Dixon** and **Stroman.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #8
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #20
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
CONAN SAGA #9 — by **Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
BLOOD #1 — by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**

NEWSWATCH

The Old Order Changeth! The Old Order Changeth Some More! Comics on Display! Comics on Auction! And Comics on Television!

ITEM: We'd like to welcome in Marvel's new Editor in Chief, but actually, he's been around the Bullpen for some time now. So we'll just convey our best wishes to an old friend — none other than **Tom DeFalco**.

Tom brings a lot of experience to his new job. A fifteen-year veteran of the comics business, Tom joined Marvel in 1980. Over the course of the next seven years, he would go on to edit and later write THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. In addition, Tom was the driving force behind the establishment of Marvel's Star Comics line. And for the last three years, he has also served as executive editor.

All of us at Marvel wish Tom the best of luck in his new job!

ITEM: Speaking of promotions, let's all wish a hearty congratulations to **Craig Anderson**! After having served as editor **Ralph Macchio's** faithful assistant on such series as THOR and DAREDEVIL, Craig's turning in his "official assistant editor" plaid pants to become a managing editor! Craig will be working with special products editor **Bob Budiansky** on a wide range of specially-produced comics, including premiums and comic book inserts for newspapers.

And while we're at it, let's welcome aboard Ralph's new assistant, **Marc Siry**! Oh, and Marc, don't forget to leave the measurements for *your* "official assistant editor" pants!

ITEM: Don't be surprised if your local bookstore suddenly starts carrying your favorite Marvel Comics! Because more than a few familiar faces turned up at this year's American Booksellers Association convention! Specialty Sales Director **Carol Kalish** was on hand to speak about selling comics in retail stores. **Jean (Moebius) Giraud** came by to sign copies of his first Epic Graphic Novel, UPON A STAR. And **Walt** and **Louise Simonson** stopped in to chat about their plans for upcoming issues of X-FACTOR.

Marvel's participation in the convention is tied into the "1987 Year of the Reader" campaign. You may have seen the "Year of the Reader" logo on direct sales copies of various Marvel Comics. So give a copy to a friend! It's a great way to enter the exciting world of reading!

ITEM: If you've been watching your local Public Broadcasting Station's fund-raising auction, you may have seen some familiar items up for bid. Once again, Marvel is doing its bit for public television by supplying nearly 100 PBS stations with comics, Graphic Novels, portfolios, and copies of THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK. Now, if we could just get that MASTERPIECE THEATRE VS. THE X-MEN Limited Series underway . . .

ITEM: And as long as we're on the topic of television, we hope you caught the recent TV commercials for G.I. JOE #56. After all, they're not just an ad campaign; they're part of our ongoing crusade to keep people from running into the kitchen during commercial breaks!

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THE TOP TEN

Stop! Wait! Before you turn the page, we gotta let you know which titles made the Top Ten list for April, 1987! Every month our meticulous Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish**, compiles a list of all the Marvel, Star, Epic, and New Universe titles sold on the Direct Sales market. And the ten best-selling comics are the ones that are enshrined right here! So now, without further ado . . . here are Marvel's Top Ten!

1—X-MEN #220
2—THE PUNISHER #2
3—X-FACTOR #19
4—SILVER SURFER #2
5—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #29
6—G.I. JOE #62
7—FALLEN ANGELS #5
8—THE 'NAM #9
9—CLASSIC X-MEN #12
10—THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #291

G.I. JOE Top Secrets Uncovered!

The operation: Infiltrate writer ***Larry Hama's*** *office to acquire top secret information concerning G.I. JOE and G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS. The purpose: To provide MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE with a preview of the newest operatives, the latest hardware, the most up-to-date technology, and the inside story concerning upcoming* ***G.I. Joe*** *and* ***Cobra*** *activities. Come with us as we watch and listen in on Larry's creative process via a specially designed, strategically placed hidden camera and microphone. It's all right, he'll never suspect we're there.*

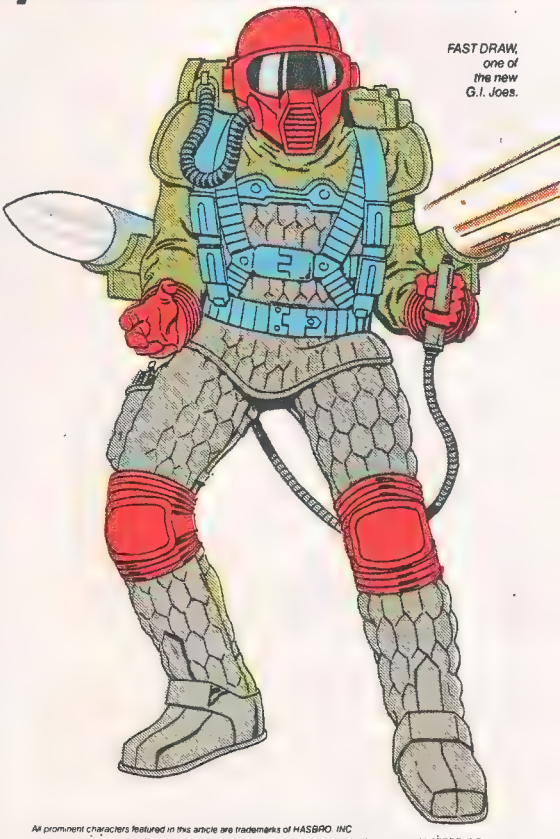
Begin transmission.

Larry sits at his desk, popping open a Diet Coke as he begins to work through his latest ideas for those Real American Heroes. The first thing on his agenda: The newest members of the G.I. Joe team.

"Sometimes the Joes will need help in the psychological area. That's where **Psych Out** comes in. He's a psychological operations specialist — a shrink! Certain missions require a psychological profile of either the Joes involved or the people they are dealing with. He can extrapolate off of known traits, facts, and observations to work up a model or studied profile of how people are going to react in a particular situation. That could be important in the months ahead."

A few notes are scribbled and a page is turned. "Then there's **Fast Draw**. He's a mobile missile specialist, basically a walking missile rack. He carries real state-of-the-art stuff, things called smart munitions. These missiles are radar and laser directed, infrared heat signature seeking hardware. In other words, they seek out their targets. Whatever Fast Draw aims them at is in real trouble."

A gleeful giggle, another page turns. "And wait till people see **Psy Load**! He's a pilot who commands the G.I.



FAST DRAW, one of the new G.I. Joes.

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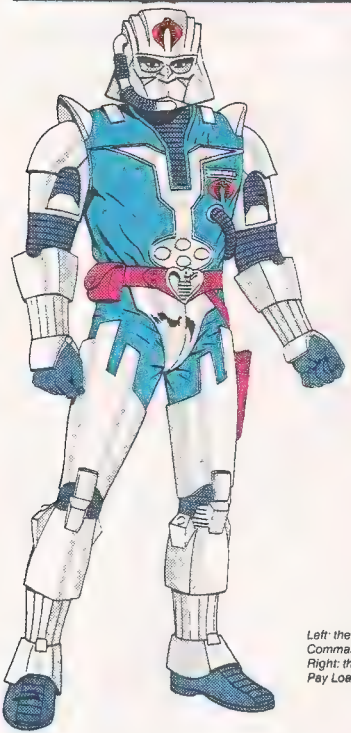
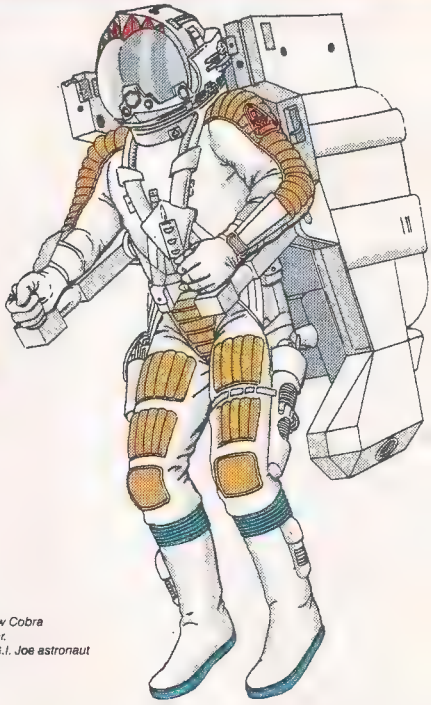




Left: the new Cobra Commander.
Right: the G.I. Joe astronaut Pay Load

Joe space shuttle Defiance. The Defiance is a pretty terrific toy and Pay Load loves driving it. It travels around on a launcher-vehicle called the Crawler, which is driven by a guy who goes by the name of **Hard Top**. He's a real hard-nosed, no-nonsense kind of character. But Pay Load is the star of this duo. He was bitten at an early age by the romance of space, and has dedicated his life to getting up into orbit. He's the kind of guy who does anything to get out there. He is driven by this compassion. And when he's not flying the shuttle, he's probably sitting somewhere making whooshing noises and pretending to be zooming along."

Larry makes a whooshing noise as he flips another page. Our camera sweeps closer to read the heading: "Notes concerning Joe HQ."

"The Joes won't cut ties with Fort Wadsworth completely, but they've become too big for just one headquarters. I think we'll build a new Pit out in the Utah desert. And maybe some office facilities underneath the streets of San Francisco. I want them to have bases of operation all over the country, on the East Coast, the West Coast, and somewhere in the middle as well. Plus, once Pay Load puts his equipment into orbit, the Joes will be able to use sub-orbital launches to get from one place to another. It's all a logistical thing. And there'll also be other tempo-

Left: the new Cobra Crystal Ball.
Right: one of the deadliest Cobra leaders, the Baroness

rary bases set up as missions dictate."

Muffled laughter reaches the microphone. Larry sips from his soda and grabs another file. Scrawled across the cover: "Notes on Cobra Command." Have those giggles gained a sinister tone?

"Cobra, the Joes' arch-nemesis, is always in a state of flux. While the only way the Joe command structure can change is by decrees from the secret coven of generals that directs them, Cobra loses and adds leaders by subterfuge. What works with the Joes and makes them popular is how they cooperate, how they pull for each other. Cobra is the opposite side of the coin. Everyone in Cobra schemes and plots and sub-plots to get ahead. But there are also people in Cobra who have scruples of some sort. There's a nice interplay of passions that keeps the organization together. These passions will come to head very soon."

An evil air seems to gather about the gritty, no-nonsense writer. "**Destro** wants command of Cobra. To further these ends, he's starting to gather his own army. But a lot of his plans relate to the previous **Cobra Commander** — a man who is now dead — so all those bets are off. But another plot works counter to Destro's. He doesn't know that the Cobra Commander is being impersonated by a clone loyal to **the Baroness**. And this Cobra Com-

mander is even more powerful than his predecessor, equipped with brand-new, state-of-the-art battle armor. It's bullet-proof, acid-proof, very flexible, light-weight, and highly protective. The helmet comes complete with interior read-outs, five pounds of plastic explosives, and a built-in tamper-proof device that will blow up if anyone tries to remove it. It's a Mercedes-Benz of uniforms."

Sinister music begins to fill the office, originating somewhere beyond the range of our camera. Larry continues to cackle about the evil machinations of Cobra. "The Baroness is the power behind the power struggle. She has been driven to design this scheme by **Serpentor**, who undercut her position. She hopes to nullify Serpentor's own power base, perhaps even by teaming up with Destro to completely oust her competition. But Serpentor has a lot of popular support among the Cobra rank and file. He's charismatic, and whatever happens will probably be very messy. And when all is said and done, we'll finally reveal the real reason the Terrordromes were distributed!"

Larry sips his Diet Coke, trying to calm his excited imagination. He reaches for the dossiers outlining the newest Cobra operatives. "**Croc Master** is a wonderful character. He used to run a security service in Florida that specialized in providing alligators and crocodiles to serve as guard dogs. He's the type of guy who likes to fill his bathtub with tepid water and just lie in it for hours on end. Only his eyes and nose remain above the surface as he dreams his strange, green dreams. He'll make a great addition to the Cobra organization."

Another dossier is pulled. "**Crystal Ball** is a master hypnotist. He studied weird, occult forms of hypnotism in some of the most exotic places imaginable. Before that, he sold encyclopedias. You may not like him at first glance, but after five minutes you'll like him a lot and trust him implicitly for some unknown reason. You'll probably even go home with a brand new set of encyclopedias."

A third dossier comes forth. "This character won't appear until 1988 some time, but he's one of my favorites. I call him **Road Pig**. His arrest record includes speeding, reckless endangerment, littering, assault, grand theft auto, usury, spitting, petty bribery, and passing stopped school buses at high speeds. He joins the **Dreadnoks** as a probationary member. They may not accept him."

The new Cobra Croc Master can't wait to put the bite on G.I. Joe.

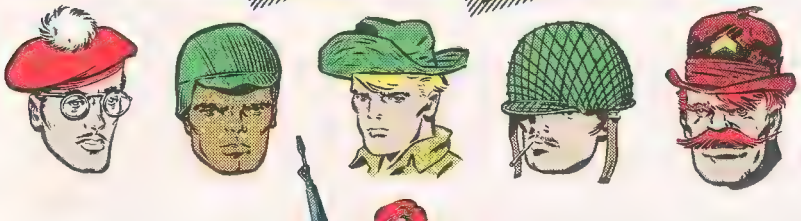
Then Larry closes the files concerning Cobra and reaches for a shiny silver folder. "A new sub-group of the G.I. Joe team is **Battle Force 2000**. Battle Force 2000 is a 'living proving ground.' They're a small group of specialists whose job is to test prototypes and experimental equipment that is ten years ahead of its time. They work with hardware that is still in the proving stages. Their mission is to test this breakthrough technology in the field under real conditions. The Battle Force vehicles include a jet plane, a snow-terrain tank, and a fast-attack jeep. The five vehicles are modular. They take the wagons-in-a-circle theory a quantum leap into the future. These vehicles fit together to form a fortress. They're not transformers, but besides fitting one to the other, things fold out to complete the portable fortress. And each vehicle can separate down into its component parts. For example, the jet has a gun turret that detaches and becomes a stationary gun emplacement."

Larry closes the silver folder and reaches for another. This one is labeled, "Upcoming Missions." Zooming in for a closer look, our camera sees . . . "Hey! A spy!" yells Larry as he raises a heavy marksmanship trophy and throws it toward . . . BANG! . . . zztz!

End transmission.

—Bill Slavicsek

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

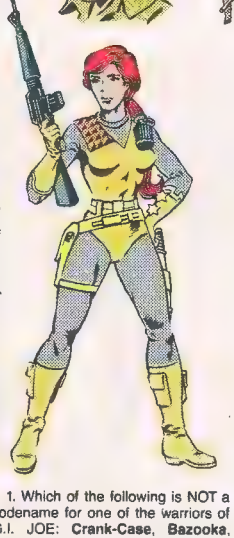


C'mon, really — isn't the popularity of **G.I. Joe** amazing? And not just because when I was a kid, I thought the great dolls were the **Major Matt Mason** sets (does anyone besides me recall that terrific series of astronaut dolls?). No, it's more because, in the twenty-six years that comprise the Marvel Age, attitudes toward war books have changed so drastically. SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOES was rip-roaring battle action all the way, but with a humor and exuberance that were uniquely Marvel it quickly became "the war comic for people who hate war comics." Then the tragedy of Vietnam made us all realize that war was not to be taken at all lightly, and the tone of war comics changed drastically.

But with the advent of widespread terrorism, and current public sentiment regarding America's standing in the world, combat comics have made a huge comeback. Not just the G.I. JOE family of books (just yesterday it was a lone series, now it has handbooks, special missions, yearbooks, it never ends!), but also the surprise hit of last year, THE 'NAM. It may seem to some like Marvel is simply demonstrating its strength and knack for reading the public mood, but for a longtime Marvelite like *moi*, the shift over the decades is thought-provoking. Where are we headed next?

Jeez, isn't this supposed to be a trivia quiz? While I go mull over these weighty matters, test yourself against this score of questions drawn from Marvel's military comics. The first half deals specifically with the world of G.I. JOE — the latter half with Marvel's older combat classics. As always, answers are on page 32. Good luck — or rather, face front, soldiers!

—Brian Nelson



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1. Which of the following is NOT a codename for one of the warriors of G.I. JOE: **Crank-Case**, **Bazooka**, **Ripcord**, **Rock 'n' Roll**, **Grunt**, **Stalker**, **Maverick**, **Flint**, **Zap**, or **Grand Slam**?

2. By what name is **General Clayton Abernathy** better known?

3. And while I'm obsessed by codenames, what's the real name of G.I. JOE's femme fatale, the sensational **Scarlett**?

4. What nemesis of **the Joes** can recall the invention of pizza firsthand?

5. And what nasty was responsible for shooting **Storm-Shadow** on Cobra Island?

6. How was **Snake-Eyes** disfigured?

7. **Stormavik**, **Diana**, and **Horror-Show** are members of what organization (other, of course, than the D.A.R.)?

8. The weaponry of the Joes is as much a feature of the book as they are themselves; what does MOBAT stand for?

9. One of the Joes' earliest enemies headed the **Strike First** troops, nestled in Montana with their own atomic warhead — who was he?

10. What significance does **Dr. Adele Burkhart** hold for the Joes?

11. This man was killed in the fall of Poland, World War II — and that's when his series *began!* Can you name him?

12. What young heroes comprised **the Kid Commandos**?

13. One of the members of **the Howling Commandos** now sits in Congress, and was the object of an assassination attempt in SGT. FURY #11 — which one?

14. He hailed from Missouri, he liked to maul and brawl, and he was **Sgt. Fury's** chief rival — do you remember him?

15. The last episode of COMBAT KELLY AND THE DEADLY DOZEN saw all but two of **the Deadly Dozen** killed in action — who survived?

16. A Marvel war hero was the first character of the Marvel Universe to be divorced; who was left by his wife **Kathy**?

17. MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16 introduced the greatest aerial ace of World War I — with what name did he strike fear into the hearts of men?

18. **Captain Savage** and his **Leatherneck Raiders** rescued a prisoner of war in the Pacific theater — who in the 60s would be one of the cornerstones of the Marvel Universe. Which future super hero owed his life to **Simon Savage**?

19. What caused the loss of Nick Fury's eye?

20. Who was the first of the Howling Commandos to die?

STAN'S SOAPBOX

HOUSE II™

Hi, Heroes! Greetings from the hallowed hills of Hollywood!

Y'know, I don't want you to think that living out here in the midst of all this show biz opulence and glamor has changed me. No way! I'm still the same wonderful, lovable, unassuming guy I always was — and I'd tell you more about it except that one of the six telephones in my limousine is ringing and I've gotta answer it!

But, to be serious — which isn't easy here in tinseltown — I promised to clue you in about all the exciting movie and T.V. projects that our brand-new parent company, New World Pictures, has lined up for us. And you know me, I never break a promise, especially when the New World honchos are breathing down my neck! So get your pencils ready and start marking your calendars — no True Believer would want to miss a single one of these upcoming dynamite productions!

First off the bat, slated to open all around the country (and the cities, too! I figured I'd beat you to that one!) on July 24th, is the long-awaited sequel to one of last year's spookiest and cleverest thriller-chillers, the haunting, horrific and hilarious HOUSE! After burning the midnight oil for hours, the New World whiz-kids finally came up with this title for our swingin' sequel: HOUSE II: THE SECOND STORY. (Second story, get it?!!) This little horror/fantasy fable stars **Arye Gross**, whom you'll all remember from New World's SOUL MAN, **Jonathan Stark**, **Royal*Dano**, **Bill Maher** and **John Ratzenberger** (of CHEERS fame). It's produced by **Sean S. Cunningham** and written and directed by **Ethan Wiley**, who were both involved with the original film.

Incidentally, we're running a big contest on opening day of HOUSE II: THE SECOND STORY. (July 24th, remember?) I'm gonna be in the audience at one of the theaters some-

NEW WORLD PICTURES

where in the country. The first Marvelite who spots me sitting near him wins the big prize — namely, he'll be allowed to change his seat! (Forgive me, gang. It's been a tough day!)

Anyway, here are some more of New World's dazzling doozies you won't want to miss. The funniest female in captivity is coming your way this fall! It's none other than **Whoopi Goldberg** in THE TELEPHONE! No, she doesn't play a Bell-Tel repair man, but we guarantee that this lively little laugh-riot will have you rolling in the aisles! Hey, that's how expressions are born! From now on, any terrific comedy will be — an aisle-roller!

And, for a change of pace, New World is gonna bestow HELLRAISER on you, opening August 14th! It's just what the name implies, **Seymour**, and the punks are gonna love it — it'll keep their hair standing on end! (I've no excuse for that one. Call me shameless!)

I don't know where they get the time or the talent (to say nothing of the big bucks), but New World's also planning to lay two other dynamite dramas on you this fall. One is SISTER, SISTER and the other's FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC. And if you think the titles sound like something out of **Mother Goose**, think again, pilgrim. They'll keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. In fact, they oughtta charge you half price for your ticket. I mean, hey, you'll only be using half the seat!

Next ish we'll feed you more details on these momentous little megahits, like who's starring in them, directing 'em and so forth. But for now, let's segue into what's coming up on the television side of New World's bag of goodies.

The first one I'm bustin' to tell you about is called TRUE COLORS. It's a real Marvel-type fantasy tale, wild and whacky and totally far-out. It focuses on the nutty exploits of a comic book hero from the third dimension who comes to Earth in order to — but, wait! Why spoil your fun by giving it away? Watch for it on ABC — it's coming soon!

Stop the presses! I forgot to tell you the most important part about TRUE COLORS! Guess who does a cameo appearance in the opening show? Here's a hint . he's my favorite writer/editor/publisher. He writes a column for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, pens the SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip and talks about the unending excitement of Marvel/New World every chance he gets. Can't figure it out yet, huh? Well, when you see him on the screen with his moustache and sunglasses, fumbling every line he says, maybe you'll recognize him then — even if they didn't let him shout "Excelsior!"

Hey, remember **Sid Caesar**? He was only the funniest, most brilliant comedian on T.V. a few decades ago. Well, he's back again and New World's got him! THE SID CAESAR SHOW for CBS, written by **Sam Denoff** and **Andrew Smith** might just be the most hilarious half-hour you've ever glimmed! And if we all get behind it, maybe we can convince sly Sid to guest-star DAREDEVIL or THE X-MEN in one of his skits!

Speaking of ol' DD and everyone's favorite mutants (notice how sneakily I got them in?), I'll be giving you the inside scoop on what's happening with their theatrical careers in one of my upcoming columns. Fact is, there's so much going on with New World Pictures that it's impossible to squeeze all the exciting news into just one ish!

And now, a personal note. I've been rapping with you on the pages of Marvel's mellifluous mags for the past zillion years or so. I've huckstered our comics, preached our philosophy, bored you, badgered you and bent your ears. Our heroes have been vital and important to me, just as they are to you, and the reason I've been proud to be a part of The House of Ideas is I always felt that Marvel represents the very best in this art form that all of us love.

Now I find a tremendous similarity between our comics and New World Pictures. When we started the Marvel bullpen years ago, we were a young, eager company, vowing to be the best there was. We had good times and bad, great books and some not so great, but we were always in there trying, always giving our best and always leveling with you as we shared the lunacy together.

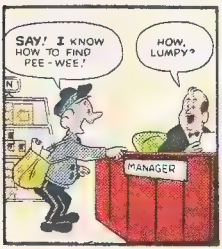
Well, that's the feeling I get about New World. In the brief three years since the company was formed by **Happy Harry Sloan**, **Lucky Larry Kuppin** and **Rollickin' Robbie Rehme**, they've become a major force in movies, T.V. and videocassettes, bringing new energy and new excitement to entertainment. Since taking Marvel into their orbit, they're now major players in the publishing field as well, and best of all, they're determined to bring our characters to the screen as powerfully, as dramatically and as faithfully as possible.

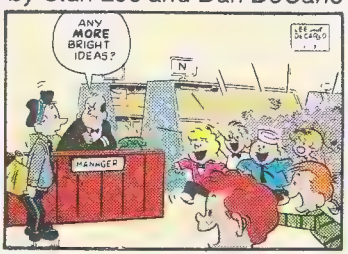
Many years ago I welcomed you to "The Marvel Age of Comics," hit you with "Make Mine Marvel" and urged you to always "Keep the Faith"! Well, why stop now? With the titanically talented staff of New World Pictures in our corner, Marvel's on the move again and the sky's the limit! It promises to be one riotous, ring-a-ding ride! So stay with us, Believers — the best lies just ahead!

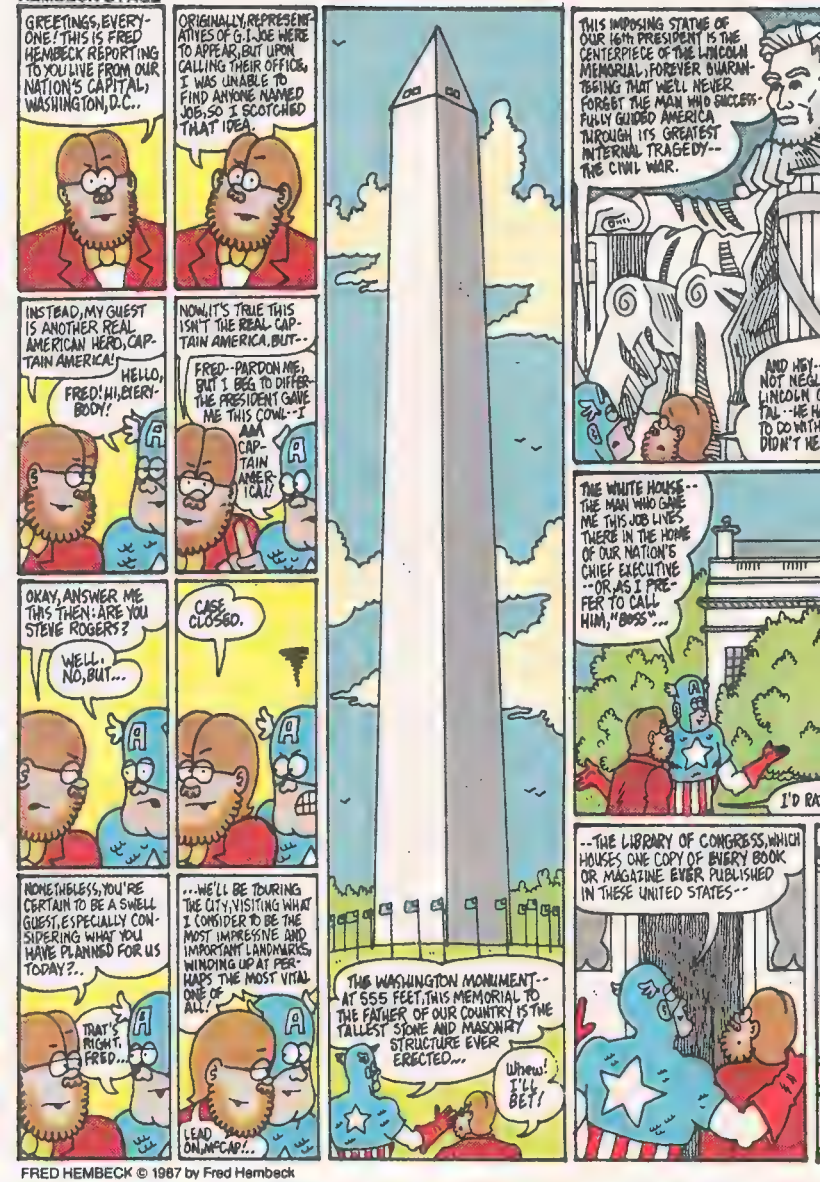
Excelsior!

Stan

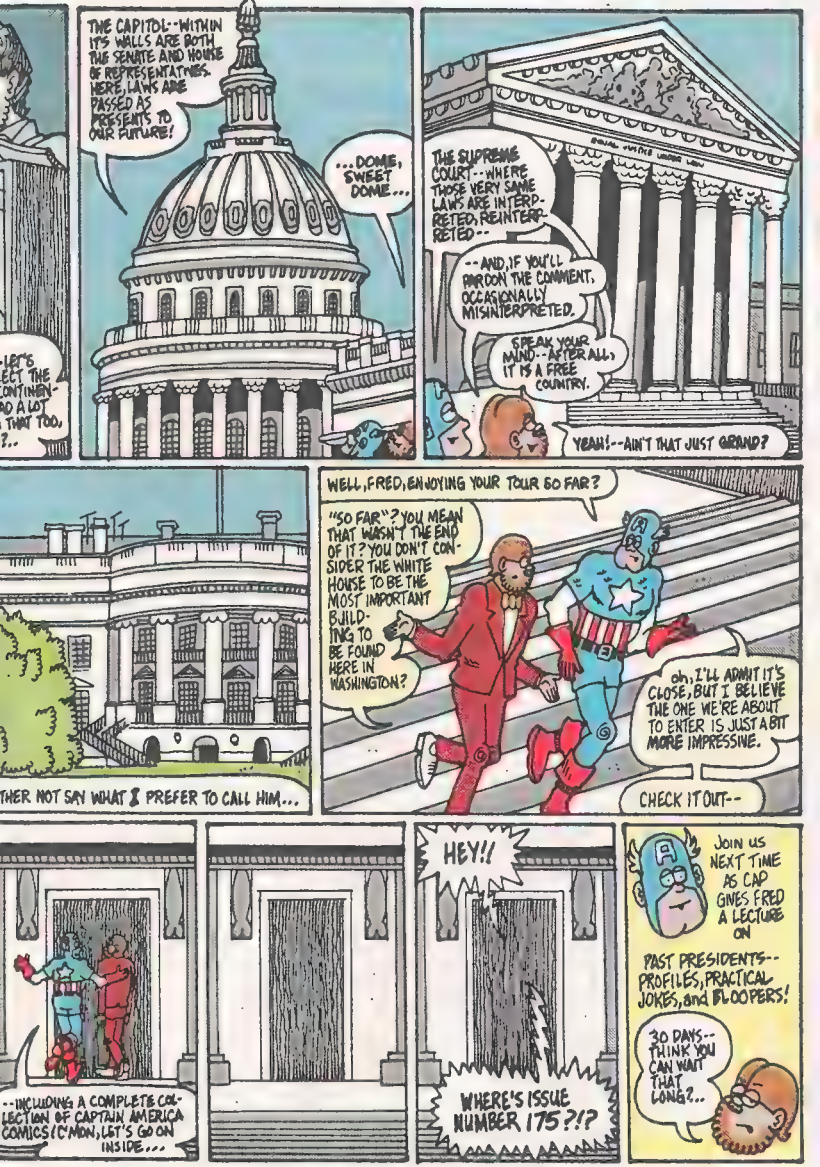
WILLIE LUMPKIN © 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo






GREETINGS, EVERYONE! THIS IS FRED HEMBECK REPORTING TO YOU LIVE FROM OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, WASHINGTON, D.C..
ORIGINALLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF G.I. JOE WERE TO APPEAR, BUT UPON CALLING THEIR OFFICE, I WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANYONE NAMED JOE, SO I SCOTCHED THAT IDEA.
INSTEAD, MY GUEST IS ANOTHER REAL AMERICAN HERO, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
HELLO, FRED! HI, EVERYBODY!
NOW, IT'S TRUE THIS ISN'T THE REAL CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT--
FRED--PARDON ME, BUT I BEG TO DIFFER--THE PRESIDENT GAVE ME THIS COWL--I AM CAPTAIN AMERICA!
OKAY, ANSWER ME THIS THEN: ARE YOU STEVE ROGERS?
WELL, NO, BUT...
CASE CLOSED.
NONETHELESS, YOU'RE CERTAIN TO BE A SWELL GUEST, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR US TODAY?..
THAT'S RIGHT, FRED...
...WE'LL BE TOURING THE CITY, VISITING WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AND IMPORTANT LANDMARKS, WINDING UP AT PERHAPS THE MOST VITAL ONE OF ALL!
LEAD ON, MACCAP!..
THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT--AT 555 FEET, THIS MEMORIAL TO THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY IS THE TALLEST STONE AND MASONRY STRUCTURE EVER ERECTED...
Whew! I'LL BET!
THIS IMPOSING STATUE OF OUR 16th PRESIDENT IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, FOREVER GUARANTEEING THAT WE'LL NEVER FORGET THE MAN WHO SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED AMERICA THROUGH ITS GREATEST INTERNAL TRAGEDY--THE CIVIL WAR.
AND HEY--NOT NEGL LINCOLN TAL--HE H TO DO WITH DIDN'T HE
THE WHITE HOUSE--THE MAN WHO GAVE ME THIS JOB LIVES THERE IN THE HOME OF OUR NATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE--OR, AS I PREFER TO CALL HIM, "BOSS"...
I'D RA
--THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WHICH HOUSES ONE COPY OF EVERY BOOK OR MAGAZINE EVER PUBLISHED IN THESE UNITED STATES--

FRED HEMBECK © 1987 by Fred Hembeck


...LET'S LEAVE THE CONTINENT AND GO A LOT FARTHER THAT TOO, I?...
THE CAPITOL--WITHIN ITS WALLS ARE BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. HERE, LAWS ARE PASSED AS PRESENTS TO OUR FUTURE!
...DOME, SWEET DOME...
THE SUPREME COURT--WHERE THOSE VERY SAME LAWS ARE INTERPRETED, REINTERPRETED--
--AND, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE COMMENT, OCCASIONALLY MISINTERPRETED.
SPEAK YOUR MIND--AFTER ALL, IT IS A FREE COUNTRY.
YEAH!--AIN'T THAT JUST GRAND?
THER NOT SAY WHAT I PREFER TO CALL HIM...
WELL, FRED, ENJOYING YOUR TOUR SO FAR?
"SO FAR"? YOU MEAN THAT WASN'T THE END OF IT? YOU DON'T CONSIDER THE WHITE HOUSE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT BUILDING TO BE FOUND HERE IN WASHINGTON?
oh, I'LL ADMIT IT'S CLOSE, BUT I BELIEVE THE ONE WE'RE ABOUT TO ENTER IS JUST A BIT MORE IMPRESSIVE.
CHECK IT OUT--
--INCLUDING A COMPLETE COLLECTION OF CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS! C'MON, LET'S GO ON INSIDE...
HEY!!
WHERE'S ISSUE NUMBER 175?!?
JOIN US NEXT TIME AS CAP GIVES FRED A LECTURE ON
PAST PRESIDENTS--PROFILES, PRACTICAL JOKES, and BLOOPERS!
30 DAYS--THINK YOU CAN WAIT THAT LONG?..

THE MARVEL AGE® INTERVIEW

MARK GRUENWALD

"I'm a Marvel traditionalist in that I'm trying to carry on the traditions of Marvel that got me hooked over twenty years ago," is **Mark Gruenwald**'s observation of his role as editor of the AVENGERS titles, IRON MAN, and THE OFFICIAL HANDOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE and of his new role as Executive Editor of Marvel. As if that weren't enough to keep him busy, Mark also scripts CAPTAIN AMERICA and D.P. 7.

Born thirty-four years ago in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Mark first achieved fan recognition as editor of OMNIVERSE, a self-published fanzine that treated events in comics as if they were real. In 1978, Mark became an assistant editor at Marvel working for writer/editors **Marv Wolfman**, **Archie Goodwin**, **Roy Thomas**, and **Steve Gerber**. Mark gained further experience as assistant editor for **Denny O'Neil** and later for **Tom DeFalco** before becoming a full editor himself in 1982.

His experience working with so many experienced editors has given him an invaluable background in comic book story-telling. And his more scholarly efforts in compiling all the facts and figures of the Marvel super heroes and villains in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE series has made him one of the preeminent experts on Marvel lore. "As far as being a historian," he observed, "it's not that I know a lot, it's that I care a lot. There are some people who know more about the Marvel Universe than I do, and I know who to contact."

It is with the AVENGERS titles which he has edited for over five years that Mr. Gruenwald has made his mark as editor. (And you thought this intro was going to be totally serious.) With the advent of SOLO AVENGERS which spotlights the individual adventures of Earth's mightiest heroes, Mark graciously took time out of his busy schedule to tell MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE all about the new series.

How many stories will be in each issue of SOLO AVENGERS?

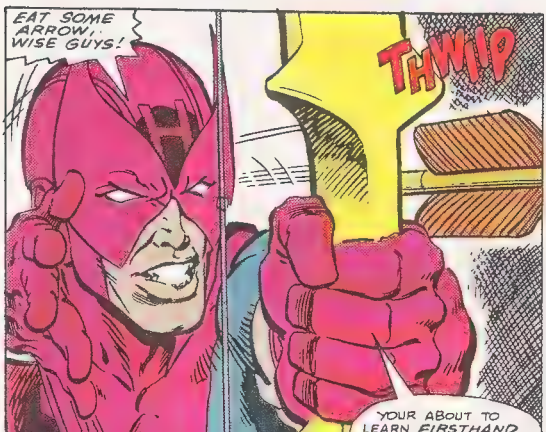
There will be two stories per issue. Each will be eleven pages. The series will be in the great format used by **Stan Lee** in the early days of Marvel with TALES OF SUSPENSE, TALES TO ASTONISH, and STRANGE TALES. It's a tradition which has recently been revived with the new STRANGE TALES with **Doctor Strange** and **Cloak** and **Dagger** as the co-features.

Why two stories each issue?

I always wanted to do a "split book." I also felt that there were a lot of Avengers, past and present, who either never had or don't currently have their own features who deserve a solo spotlight. It's just not possible to do Limited Series for all of them. So by having two on-going features in one series I can showcase the twenty-five Avengers who don't currently have their own titles.

My original proposal was to have two stories in each issue featuring different Avengers. Then I thought that this might be a little too radical a departure from the standard format. Each issue would be so totally different fans would never know what to expect. So what I wanted to do is have one continuing feature about one Avenger and the co-feature be about everybody else

By my calculations, the most popular Avenger who does not have his own book is **Hawkeye** from the West Coast Avengers. So he is the Avenge.


EAT SOME ARROW, WISE GUYS!
THWIP
YOUR ABOUT TO LEARN FIRSTHAND THE REASONS WHY THEY CALL ME AN AVENGER!
PAY ATTENTION NOW! THERE WILL BE A QUIZ LATER!

Hawkeye takes his best shot. Written by Tom DeFalco, penciled by Mark Bright, and inked by Joe Rubinstein.

who will have the lead co-feature each issue.

Who will be doing the Hawkeye stories?

Tom DeFalco is the writer, **Mark Bright** is the penciler, and **Joe Rubinstein** is the inker. I was a great fan of Tom's **Spider-Man** stories. I thought he had a good feel for a wise-cracking, somewhat unorthodox yet down-to-earth kind of hero. We had numerous discussions about how Hawkeye's character differs from that of Spider-Man, from **Captain America**, and from all the other costumed athlete heroes with essentially one trademark. And we discussed all the possibilities of what his solo adventures would be like. Hawkeye leads the West Coast Avengers. But the group is not together all the time. We do twelve issues of THE WEST COAST AVENGERS a year. At the most the period of time covered is about twenty-four days out of three hundred and sixty-five. So what does Hawkeye do all the rest of the time? He can't be just filling out expense reports and doing pay vouchers *all* that time. He must have time to do other things. We'll be showing what those other things are in Hawkeye's solo feature. Anyone familiar with ol' Hawk will know the emphasis will definitely be on action.

Who will be doing the co-feature?

There will not be one set writer, penciler or inker. The co-feature will finally give me the chance to work with a number of people including established professionals who have always had a hankering to do a story, but can't because they don't have the time to commit to an ongoing or to a Limited Series. And

Hawkeye rides into action. Pencils by Mark Bright and inks by Joe Rubinstein

Hawkeye and Mockingbird star in SOLO AVENGERS #1. Pencils by Mark Bright, inks by Joe Rubinstein.

SOLO AVENGERS will give the best of the new people in comics a chance to really strut their stuff.

How will the continuity of SOLO AVENGERS interweave with the other two Avengers series?

Hawkeye will have his own continuity from series to series. What I've told each of the writers doing a SOLO AVENGERS story is that these stories *count*. I'm *not* looking for off-beat, day-in-the-life stories. I'm looking for on-beat, important stories about these characters.

The eleven-page story for each character may be the only solo spotlight he or she will have all year. It has to be the one place where the hero gets to shine, so I want nothing held back in the story. I want us to learn everything there is to know about the character. Not only that, but I want the character's personality and powers challenged to the fullest. Developments can occur in SOLO AVENGERS stories that will be reflected in THE AVENGERS and THE WEST COAST AVENGERS.

So the continuity between SOLO AVENGERS and THE AVENGERS and THE WEST COAST AVENGERS will be close.

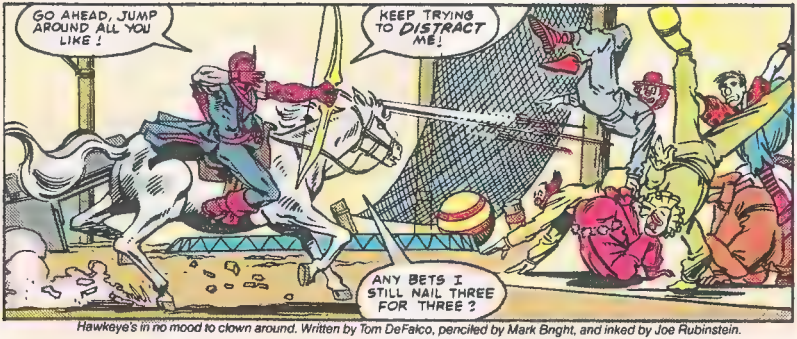
Yes, whenever possible. I hope never to run a story whose continuity cannot be jived with what is going on in the regular book that very month. We could have a major event happen in the life of one of the characters in SOLO AVENGERS and then have it picked up on in the very next month of the regular series where the character appears. I'm coordinating it all so it should work.

Also, since most of the characters have never had their own series before, they have never had foes of their own. One of the things that I want to develop in SOLO AVENGERS is a stable of new individual foes for the individual Avengers.

And I'm trying to repopulate the Marvel Universe stock of villains.

You yourself were somewhat responsible for the depletion of Marvel super-villains with your Scourge stories in CAPTAIN AMERICA.

I never killed anyone who didn't de-



Hawkeye's in no mood to clown around. Written by Tom DeFalco, penciled by Mark Bright, and inked by Joe Rubinstein.

serve it — with one exception. And I'll let everyone guess who I think didn't deserve to die.

What sort of solo Avengers adventures can we expect?

The stories will be very much to the point and will have intriguing premises that will get you right into the action. You will see such things as **Dr. Druid** coming across a bunch of subway cars stacked in the configuration of Stonehenge. You will see **Black Knight** confronting his last descendant — the last of the Black Knight line — who inherits the Ebony Sword and is affected by its curse. You will see **Doctor Pym** confront renegade ants who are out to get vengeance for all their brethren who died in battle serving Pym. You will see **Scarlet Witch** confront **Death** — she'll grapple with Death in order to save her children.

In the very first issue, I have a **Mockingbird** story which is a spin-off of the Hawkeye adventure. It's written by Tom DeFalco and penciled by **Jim Lee** who has done some work on ALPHA FLIGHT. The story happens around the same time and has some of the same events as the Hawkeye story, but it's not the same tale. It's pretty interesting.

The popularity of the super heroes in THE AVENGERS and THE WEST COAST AVENGERS must be pretty strong if there is now going to be a series about the members' individual adventures.

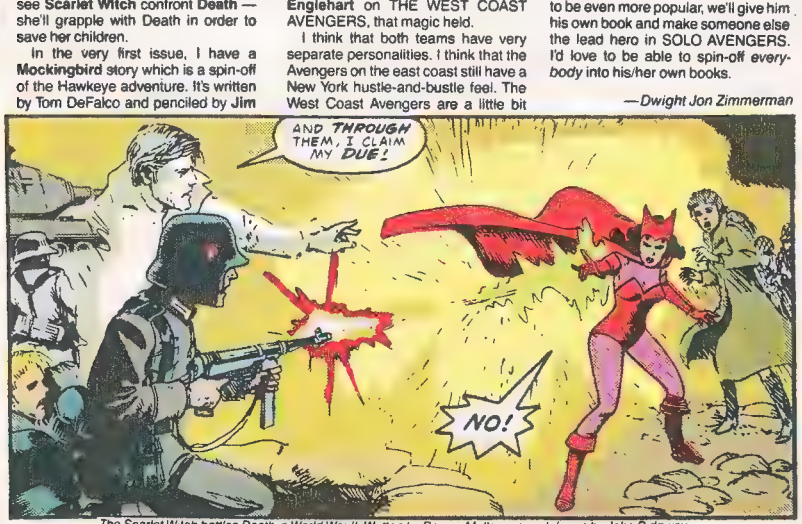
The creation of THE WEST COAST AVENGERS was a calculated risk to see if the Avengers concept had enough "magic" to carry two teams. I think that thanks to the vastly different handling of the two books, with **Roger Stern** on THE AVENGERS and **Steve Englehart** on THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, that magic held.

I think that both teams have very separate personalities. I think that the Avengers on the east coast still have a New York hustle-and-bustle feel. The West Coast Avengers are a little bit more laid-back. Both teams are heirs to the tradition founded with the creation of the Avengers. They're Earth's greatest heroes. They're the professionals. They're not a social club, a school, or a family. They're a group of altruists with a common purpose of doing things together that not a single member could accomplish alone.

You mentioned earlier that the reason Hawkeye will be the ongoing hero in SOLO AVENGERS is because he is so popular. What would happen if fans demand longer Hawkeye solo stories?

People have been clamoring for a Hawkeye series, well, now they've got half of one. And if Hawkey proves to be even more popular, we'll give him his own book and make someone else the lead hero in SOLO AVENGERS. I'd love to be able to spin-off *everybody* into his/her own books.

—Dwight Jon Zimmerman



The Scarlet Witch battles Death in World War II. Written by Dennis Mallonnee and drawn by John Ridgway.

ALIEN LEGION™

We have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that as of issue number 20, THE ALIEN LEGION will be discontinued. The good news, however, is that Marvel's Epic comics will reintroduce the title as ALIEN LEGION in mid-September.

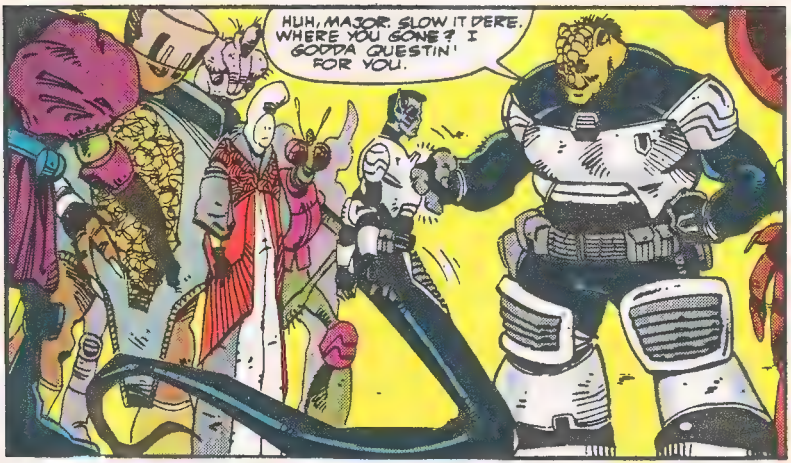
The **Alien Legion** is an interplanetary body of mercenary troops charged with the responsibility of guarding inhospitable galactic frontiers, quashing insurgencies, and serving the three galaxies of the Union. Their ranks are composed of lifeforms from a multitude of worlds that comprise the Galarchy. Some are idealists who have joined to serve their government or flee oppression, others are malcontents who seek adventure and fortune. Still others are criminals in hiding, sociopathic killers, wandering poets seeking inspiration, frontier preachers in search of new souls, or lost lovers without purpose.

In its three years of existence, THE ALIEN LEGION has built up a hardcore group of followers. It was one of the first series in the Epic comics line, and it is their longest running title to date. The popularity of the book inspired Epic to publish the ALIEN LEGION Graphic Novel, which itself revealed many changes in the series.

Continuing its bi-monthly schedule, ALIEN LEGION takes place shortly after the conclusion of the original series. "We're starting a whole new story direction," said **Carl Potts**, creator/producer of ALIEN LEGION. "We're also introducing a new format that costs less to produce, making it more affordable. There's a lot of comics out

AS YOU WELL KNOW, SARIGAR, YOU'RE FAR TOO VALUABLE TO THE UNION'S EFFORTS IN THIS WAR TO BE RELIEVED OF COMMAND. PARTICULARLY TO GO ON A MISSION THAT IS BY ALL ACCOUNTS A FOOL'S ERRAND.

ALIEN LEGION © and TM 1987 by Carl Potts.



there on the stands right now and the higher-priced ones are suffering in sales because of it. So we're going to be printing on Mando paper which will hopefully lower the price a bit."

The new story direction deals with **Sarigar**, a character familiar to loyal fans. He must try to locate his own **Nomad Squadron** as well as numerous other Legionnaires that he sent off into battle and who were lost without a trace. Although it takes him years to track them all down and discover what has become of them, this particular storyline will only span through the first three issues.

Carl noted that this tale is based upon an actual historical incident that took place in Roman Britain. "The Romans sent a legion thousands strong north of Hadrian's Wall to quell an uprising in Scotland, and they just disappeared. No one really knows what happened to them."

Alan Zelenetz, THE ALIEN LEGION's veteran writer, is co-writing the first two issues with newcomer **Chuck Dixon**, who is best known as the regular writer on THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN every month. Chuck will assume all the writing chores for the succeeding issues. **Larry Stroman** and **Randy Emberlin** will continue as the regular art team.

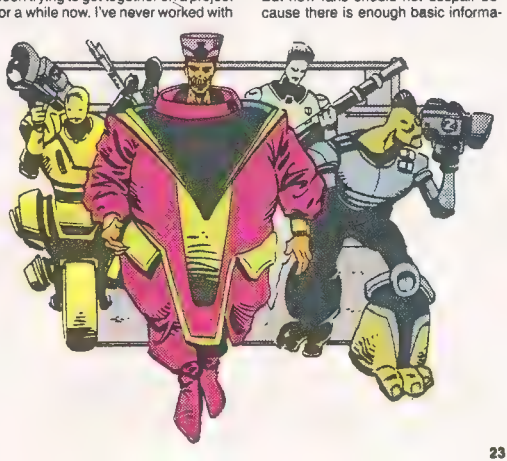
"I've always been real happy with Larry's and Randy's work," Carl said, "and with the new direction we're going in, Chuck Dixon should fit right in. His work for other companies has been very much along the lines that we're trying to accomplish here. I'm very excited about having him aboard."

"I have a reputation for writing violent, gritty stuff," Chuck said. "Carl talked about what he wanted and it was right up my alley." Chuck wants to focus more on the war aspect of the storyline. "In the original series, the Legion never seemed to go into all-out war. Most of their time was spent either in training or on covert missions. I want to bring a more gutsy feel to the book, like '*Platoon* meets *Aliens*.' " Chuck also hopes to develop more high-tech weaponry for the Legion.

"I'm looking forward to working with Epic," Chuck added. "Epic Editorial Director **Archie Goodwin** and I have been trying to get together on a project for a while now. I've never worked with Carl before, but I like a lot of the things that he's done. Overall, I think ALIEN LEGION is perfectly suited for me."

Carl feels that the creative team accords a great deal of hard work to the series, which contributes to its continued success. "I'm very happy with the crew we have lined up to do it," he said. "We even have a new colorist, **John Wellington**, who is one of the best new colorists around."

Of course, the audience is the key factor in determining the success of any book. And ALIEN LEGION has attracted a devoted group of followers. But new fans should not despair because there is enough basic informa-



tion in each issue for you to enjoy it as well, without having to know the entire history of the team.

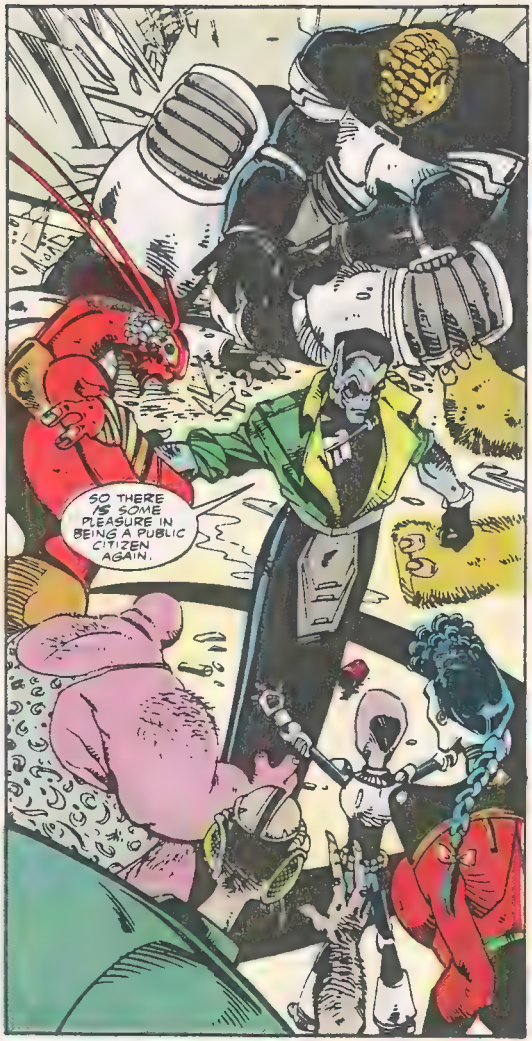
A small number of characters will be carried over from the previous series and eventually some new ones will be introduced. "There will be a lot of characters that people are familiar with from the old series that will no longer be with us," Carl said. "I want to keep people guessing as to who they are."

Obviously, the main character in the first three issues is Sarigar. As a matter of fact, throughout most of this particular storyline, Sarigar will no longer be a member of the Legion. In order to discover the fate of his troops he must resign his commission. Otherwise, his duties as commander would prevent him from accomplishing his task. He will then form an allegiance with a select group of old and new Legionnaires to carry out special missions for the Galarchy.

Carl sees the main concept of ALIEN LEGION as the struggle between the ideal and reality, whether it is on a galactic scale or an interpersonal scale. "The ideal is that all these aliens, enlisted for various reasons, are working together for the common good," Carl explained. "The reality is that this is very difficult to pull off. The Galarchy is an extrapolation of the United States government, which is very unwieldy just because of the size and the bureacracy involved. Even if everyone was well-intentioned in the government, just the size alone would cause waste and mistakes. If you expand that to a government which covers three galaxies, you have a major problem, especially if you throw in all the corrupt beings on top of the unwieldy size."

The Alien Legion is a microcosm of that concept. All of these diverse creatures are put together as a unit. They are even given a standard uniform that must obviously be altered somewhat to fit each type, sometimes to the point where it looks laughable. The new series will focus on a smaller group of beings than the original. It also promises to deal with more space-faring adventures, and gritty, hard-hitting action. However, it will still maintain the essential substance that made the original a great success. Also returning will be the spectacular visuals, the high-tech hardware, and the diverse interactions among the aliens.

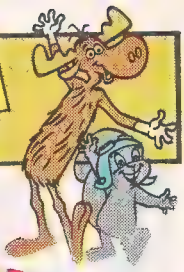
Holding the nebulous title of "producer," Carl ends up acting in some ways as an editor for the book. "Since I'm the primary creator/owner of ALIEN LEGION, I hire the people that do the work on the book," he said. Once Carl okays everything, the work is then passed on to the capable editorial hands of Archie Goodwin and Associate Editor **Margaret Clark** in the Epic offices.



"I'm real jazzed about the direction we're going in," Carl said. "I think the new series will still retain the qualities that gave us our hard-core group of fans while also exposing us to a whole new group that may not have been aware of us before. So, I think we're going to have the best of all worlds." And what could be more appropriate for ALIEN LEGION?

—Glenn Herdling

STAR™ SPOTLIGHT



BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY™

Way back in 1959, Jay Ward Productions gave the world an animated television series that would go on to become a classic. The show starred the high-flying **Rocket J. Squirrel** ("Rocky" to his friends) and his well-meaning but not very bright pal, **Bullwinkle Moose**. Before long, Rocky and Bullwinkle took the country by storm and assumed their rightful places among show business legends. In fact, almost thirty years later, the pair can *still* be found on t-shirts, dolls, mugs — not to mention their T.V. series, which is still shown in about 100 cities nationwide! And now . . . Hokey smokes! BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY is coming to your local newsstand or comics specialty shop in the pages of their very own Star Comic!

"We're very excited!" says BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY editor Sid **Jacobson**. And no wonder! The entire cast of the T.V. show will be on hand in the bi-monthly comic book. Just like on T.V., Bullwinkle and Rocky will try to thwart the nefarious schemes of devious spies **Boris Badenov** and **Natasha Fatale** as the evil duo carries out the orders of Fearless **Leader**. Bullwinkle and Rocky won't always have to do it themselves, though, they'll be helped from time to time by their television friends, such as the alien **Moon Men** and **Captain Peter "Wrong Way" Peachfuzz**, a brilliant navigator whose only problem is that he always goes the wrong way!

As if that weren't enough, BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY will also pre-

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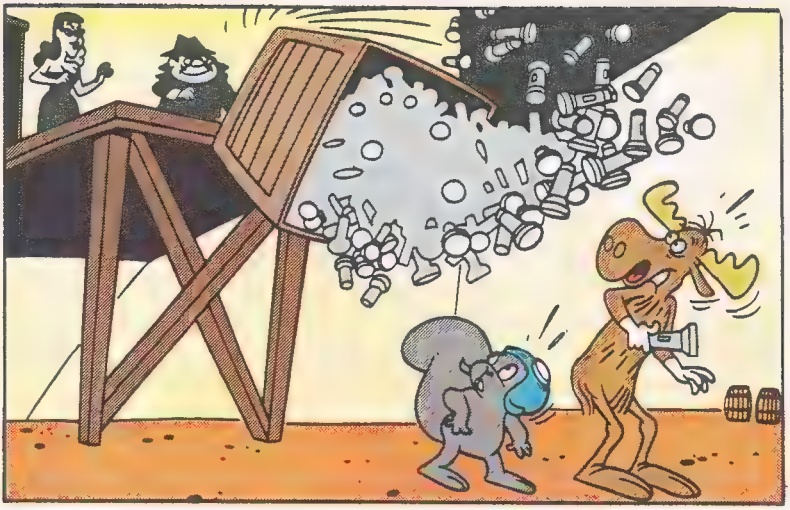


sent the adventures of our heroes' T.V. co-stars! The canine genius **Mr. Peabody** and his pet boy **Sherman** will be around, traveling through time to aid the great figures of history — and just wait till you learn the "true" stories behind all those things you learned in history class! There will also be laughs aplenty as dedicated but dimwitted **Mountie Dudley Do-Right** takes on his old foe, **Snidely Whiplash**. It's a good thing that Dudley's horse is smarter than he is, otherwise, *nobody'd* be able to save the lovely **Nell** from Snidely's clutches!

And just in case you thought we forgot, BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY will even include such favorites as *Bullwinkle's Corner* and *Mr. Know-it-All*, the "educational" segment in which Bullwinkle's lectures invariably have hilarious — not to mention painful — consequences for the moose! To top it all off, *Fractured Fairy Tales* and *Aesop's Fables* will present some familiar stories with some decidedly *un*familiar twists.

But although BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY will feature everything that the television show audience has come to expect, Sid stresses that all the the material in the comic book will be brand new. The spirit of the T.V. show will be intact, though, as you'll see when Bullwinkle builds a flashlight that turns out to be an invisibility ray or when Mr. Peabody and Sherman help the **Wright** brothers invent the airplane! The creative team is working long and hard to make sure that BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY will be enjoyable for both dyed-in-the-wool Rocky and Bullwinkle fanatics and those who've never seen the characters before.

But who *is* the creative team, you ask?

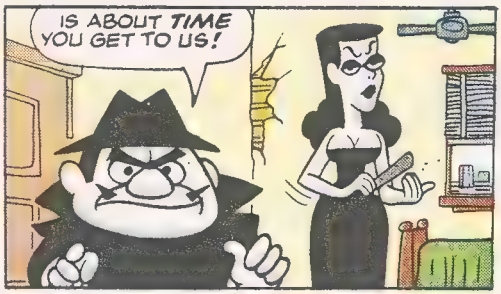
Well, when word of the series spread around the Bullpen, Sid was swamped by requests from comics professionals, all of whom were dying for the chance to chronicle the adventures of their favorite cartoon characters. After long consideration, Sid decided that TOP DOG and DROIDS scripter **Dave Manak** would write BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY. Sid finally settled on noted comics artist **Ernie Colón** as penciler and chose HEATHCLIFF inker **Jacqueline Roettcher** to ink the series. "I know Ernie has enough ability to master the basic style and simplicity of the T.V. show and enough animation sense to know how to embellish it," Sid explains. "And of any inker, Jacqueline is the best animation inker. In animation, you don't change what's in the pencils. Jacqueline doesn't, and she uses a good, strong line.

"She also pleaded," he adds, chuckling.

With all of the enthusiasm that BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY has generated around Marvel, you might think that Sid has high expectations for the series. And you'd be right! "I think this will be our most successful Star Comic with the Marvel fans!" Sid raves.

So be sure to get in on the ground floor of this hot new series. And don't miss an issue! As a lifelong fan of Rocky and Bullwinkle, I know I sure won't!

—*Sholly Fisch*



THE MARVEL AGE® 1975 (PT. 3)

Monsters were unleashed on a regular basis throughout 1975 — the horror craze was peaking! Scads of supernatural exploits shambled out under the Marvel banner that year; let's see how many we can cover in one article!

TOMB OF DRACULA presented the arch-vampire with some of his most dire challenges. He opened the year battling the machinations of the disembodied brain, **Doctor Sun** — although he didn't know it at the time! Sun's emissaries were foiling **Drac** in the quest for the mystic relic known as the Chimera. The longer Drac battled, the more he realized Dr. Sun was somehow draining his powers! The Lord of Vampires suffered personal heartbreak as well, when young **Shiela Whittier** killed herself rather than live as Dracula's consort. Ol' Vlad had come to care for Shiela more than he realized, and he took horrible vengenace on **David Eschol**, the rabbinical student he blamed for taking Shiela from him. A duel with **Quincy Harker** followed: Quincy's ingenious devices had Dracula on the ropes, but Dracula's underlings had captured **Rachel Van Helsing** as an ace-in-the-hole! From Harker, Dracula learned more about Doctor Sun, and after dallying with the insidious **Daphne Von Wilkinson** long enough to build his strength back up (and then killing her for her presumption to toy with the Lord of the Undead), Dracula then journeyed to America to confront his deadliest enemy!

Dracula's supporting cast was changing as well: the mute **Taj** went home to India, to confront his vampiric son and bereaved wife, while **Frank Drake** escaped to Brazil, only to encounter a legion of zuvembies, and the ubiquitous **Brother Voodoo**! Back in Boston, Dracula met two unlikely allies, the klutzy hack writer **Harold H. Harold**, and the virginal bombshell, **Aurora Rabinowitz**. This odd couple sustained Dracula as he went up against the spike-armed **Juno** and the forces of Doctor Sun — but all in vain, for the year ended with Sun killing Dracula,

and using the mesmeric powers he had usurped from Dracula to hypnotize a regiment of the U.S. Army! How would Sun's dreams of conquest be stopped? You had to come back in '76 for the answer!

Dracula fans didn't have to settle for that, though! GIANT-SIZE DRACULA featured period tales of terror, set in unlikely locales in the 1930s! "Let it Bleed," about a giant heart beating beneath Devils Lake, North Dakota, sent special shivers down the spines of many a Marvelite! And the magazine DRACULA LIVES! continued to present Vlad in exciting exploits, including an adaptation of the original **Bram Stoker** novel, by **Roy Thomas** and **Dick Giordano**! Dracula's daughter, **Lilith**, also stalked those pages, making life extremely strange for **Angel O'Hara**, the unwed mother whose form Lilith inhabited!

Those with a taste for blood had still more options: the magazine VAMPIRE TALES presented adventures of **Blade, the Vampire Slayer**, and **Morbius, the Living Vampire**, against the vampiric hordes. Morbius, whose rare medical condition forced him to drink blood, constantly sought a cure for his wretched condition, both here, and in the pages of FEAR, where he had replaced **the Man-Thing** when the swamp monster got his own book. In FEAR, Morbius was caught between the forces of diabolical science — the uncanny **Caretakers** — and the monstrous sorcery of **Daemond**! Behind their conflict was the preternatural child **Tara**, a psychic vampire who begged Morbius to kill her before she could destroy the world. Their battle finished, Morbius and his beloved **Martine** continued to search for a cure, but all the while, they had to stay one step ahead of ex-CIA investigator, **Simon Stroud**. Stroud and Morbius found themselves unlikely partners against such menaces as the extra-dimensional demon **Helleyes**, and the vampires of **Mason Manor**, before Morbius's tenure in FEAR came to — dare we say it? — a bloody end.

Simon Stroud was straight man to more than one monster — he also popped up in CREATURES ON THE LOOSE, trailing the monstrous **Man-Wolf**! **John Jameson** (son of **Jolly Jonah**) was fleeing from the AWOL charges that his Man-Wolf persona had incurred — and in the course of his flight, met up with **Kraven the Hunter, the Hate-Monger**, and **S.H.I.E.L.D.**! As he snarled his way through these skirmishes, though, his secret origin was coming to light slowly — as the madman **Harrisun Tyrk** (later to become **Lunatik**) kidnaped his fiancee, **Kristine Saunders**, and warriors from another world were commandeering NASA's space wheel! These warriors were from a dimension where John Jameson could become not Man-Wolf, but **Wolfgod**! But that was a story for another year, as CREATURES ON THE LOOSE became another of many monster books to bite the dust.

"Bite the dust" are words that ring too true for another ill-fated horror star: **N'Kantu, the Living Mummy**. In the pages of SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS, N'Kantu and his elaborate supporting cast (petty conmen, the wind-goddess **Zephyr**, noted archaeologists, and American graduate students) were engaged in a year-long war, the War

That Shook the World. The evil **Elementals — Hydron, Magnum,** and **Hellfire** — conquered Cairo and nearly transported it out of this cosmos! Fortunately, the Mummy and his pals managed to save the day before cancellation struck!

What about another classic creepy, THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER? **Frank** found himself in a world he never made, stalking the city of today with his newfound friend, street tough **Ralph Caccone**. Ralph's mad scientist folks had created their own patchwork monster, the chimeric **Night-Creature**. It gave Frank (I know it's undignified, but what else to call him for short?) a run for his money, but there were odder threats waiting in the wings: those of ICON, an international crime organization which wanted to study Frank and produce an army of undead soldiers! Their premiere project, the robotic **Berserker**, at first battled Frank and later became his friend, as they realized how much they had in common! More supporting characters kept us guessing: **Eric Prawn**, a shady private investigator; **Veronica Frankenstein**, the scientist's descendant who atoned for her ancestor's sins by giving the Monster a voice at long last; and **Victoria Von Frankenstein**, whose freakish "children" destroyed the Berserker and carried Frank into her lair at year's end.

The Monster also haunted the pages of MONSTERS UNLEASHED (naturally enough), where he shared billing with **Tigra the Were-Woman** — battling a truly disgusting rat-demon — and the tormented exorcist, **Gabriel**. Frank also popped up in the one-shot magazine, LEGION OF MONSTERS, where his co-stars were the never-to-be-seen-again **Manphibian**, and of course, **Dracula**, in another chapter of the novel adaptation. Yet another magazine that hosted various fear-stars was THE HAUNT OF HORROR, whose last 1975 issue presented Gabriel, **Devil Hunter**, in "The Possession of Jenny Christopher," and **Satana, the Devil's Daughter**. In the conclusion of an elaborate **Chris Claremont** epic, Satana defeated the mad **Miles Gorney**, who dreamed of conquering Hell, only to learn that Gorney was her own father, **Satan**, testing her loyalty. Satana paid him back by denying him the soul of **Father Michael Heron**, a priest she might have loved in another world.

Satana's brother, **Daimon Hellstrom**, was busy headlining MARVEL SPOTLIGHT as **the Son of Satan**. In 1975 Daimon went on an elaborate odyssey, challenging the Tarot mysteries of the devious **Madame Swabada**. To defeat her, he journeyed into himself, where he learned he must accept the evil in himself as well as the good if he

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

The issues we covered this month will keep you up late at night better than any over-the-counter prescription! To pick up your own copies of these terror-trips, consult the list below and see what current prices are like at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is THE OFFICIAL OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember, actual prices may vary, and should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **ARRGH!**			
2–5		.25	.50
■ **CREATURES ON THE LOOSE**			
33–37 (Man-Wolf)		.25	.50
■ **DEAD OF NIGHT**			
11 (Scarecrow)		.25	.50
■ **DOCTOR STRANGE**			
6–11		.50	1.00
■ **DRACULA LIVES!**			
10–13, ANNUAL 1	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **FEAR**			
26–31 (Morbius)		.30	.60
■ **FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER**			
14–18		.25	.50
■ **GHOST RIDER**			
10	.50	1.50	3.00
11–15	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS**			
1		.50	1.00
2		.30	.60
3		.50	1.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE DR. STRANGE**			
1	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE DRACULA**			
4		.30	.60
5 (1st Byrne art at Marvel)	.70	2.00	4.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING**			
3		.50	1.00
4–5 (Howard the Duck)	.85	2.50	5.00
■ **GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF**			
3–5 (Morbius in 4)		1.00	2.00
■ **HAUNT OF HORROR**			
5 (Satana, Gabriel)	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **LEGION OF MONSTERS**			
1 (Dracula, Frankenstein, Manphibian)	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **MAN-THING**			
13–22		.30	.60
■ **MARVEL CHILLERS**			
1 (Modred intro)		.30	.60
2		.25	.50
■ **MARVEL PRESENTS**			
1 (intro Bloodstone)		.40	.80
2		.30	.60
■ **MARVEL PREVIEW**			
1 (Man-Gods From Beyond the Stars)	.70	2.00	4.00
2 (Punisher intro Dominic Fortune)	2.00	6.00	12.00
3 (Blade)	.30	.90	1.80
■ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT**			
20 (Son of Satan series thru 24)		.40	.80
21–25 (25: Sinbad)		.30	.60
■ **MASTERS OF TERROR**			
1	.30	.90	1.80
2		.60	1.20
■ **MONSTERS UNLEASHED**			
10–11, ANNUAL 1 (Frankenstein, Tigra)		.50	1.00
■ **SON OF SATAN**			
1		.40	.80
■ **SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS**			
11–15		.25	.50
■ **TALES OF THE ZOMBIE**			
9–10, ANNUAL 1	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **TOMB OF DRACULA**			
28–39		.45	.90
■ **UNKNOWN WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION**			
2–6	.40	1.20	2.40
■ **VAMPIRE TALES**			
9–11 (Blade, Morbius)		.60	1.20
ANNUAL 1	.25	.75	1.50
■ **WAR IS HELL**			
11–15		.15	.30
■ **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**			
25–31, 34–36		.25	.50
32 (origin Moon Knight)	2.50	7.50	15.00
33 (Moon Knight)	1.70	5.00	10.00

was to achieve anything. A skirmish with **Father Darklyte** and **the Legion of Nihilists** came next, and then war against **Kthara**, mother of demons, whom Daimon defeated in concert with his sister, Satana! MARVEL SPOTLIGHT then ran an adaptation of the movie, "The 7th Voyage of Sinbad," while Daimon graduated to his own book, aptly named THE SON OF SATAN! In its premiere episode, he came home to duel his father, only to greet **the Possessor**, another fiend who wished to conquer Hell for himself! (These days, corporate takeovers keep that kind of guy busy!)

Jack Russell was keeping the fur flying in WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, of course! His first foes of '75 were the **Jekyll/Hyde** menace known as **De-Prayve**, and the mad vigilante called **the Hangman** — but perhaps his most dangerous foe was the diabolical sorcerer, the amazing **Dr. Glitternight**! This chrome-domed nasty hoped to capitalize on the coming 18th birthday of Jack's sister **Lissa**, turning her into not just a werewolf, but a were-demon to serve him! His demonic energies almost corrupted Lissa beyond hope, but with the help of the young empath **Topaz**, Jack restored his sister to normalcy and cured her of the curse he could not escape himself. This moment of bliss was short-lived, though, for Jack's worst fear came true in the tale called "Death in White" — the Werewolf harmed one of Jack's closest friends! Writer **Buck Cowan** was mauled to an inch of his life, and to save him, Jack, Lissa, Topaz, and Buck's love, **Elaine**, undertook a deadly quest! The mystic cure that might save Buck lay in the house of the late, malevolent **Belaric Marcosa** — whose spirit still haunted the mansion, and involved Jack in the scariest haunted-house story ever in comics (not kidding, here), a four-part epic that kept readers breathless well into '76!

Before Jack entered that haunted house, though, he took two issues to meet and battle a future superstar: the mysterious **Moon Knight**! Mercenary **Marc Spector** was hired to capture the werewolf, but grew to respect his power in a debut tale that captured the imagination of Marvelites across the nation, and soon led to many more appearances for the supernatural adventurer who's now with **the West Coast Avengers**! GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF BY NIGHT gave us more exploits of the furry guy, up against Transylvanian gypsies, Morbius, and **Paingloss**, the interdimensional sorcerer!

Perhaps the most significant issues of the giant-size line were the 1975 issues of GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING. While the muck-monster starred in the front of the book, battling demons with **Dakimh** and **Jennifer Kale**, and the human evils and prejudices that had destroyed souls such as **Edmond Winshed** and **Ted Sallis**, the back of the book premiered a fan-favorite in his first solo exploits: none other than **Howard the Duck**! Howard tumbled into our universe, facing **Garko the Man-Frog**, and **Bessie the Vampire Cow**, and winning acclaim that would launch him into the stratosphere of Marvel headliners!

MAN-THING's regular book upheld its tradition of weirdness, cunningly and chillingly related. **Dr. Maura Spinner**, a withdrawn scientist investigating the Bermuda Triangle, was kidnaped by sky-sailing pirates, to realize her ultimate destiny as bride to an immortal satyr! **Sainte-Cloud**, a hippie who had befriended Ted Sallis, somehow was protected by his spirit when her jealous boyfriend tried to kill her! A decadent rock musician came to the swamps to enjoy decay, only to meet his end at the hands of a mad viking determined to eradicate effeminacy! Citrusville, Florida, became the site of a book-burning when **the Viking** joined with the forces of censorship, and the swamp-monster overcame seeming doom in the town's chemical treatment plant, to return as a creature of toxic foam! **The Scavenger** haunted Atlanta, vampirically draining innocents of their emotions, and **Richard Rory**, hapless disc jockey, somehow found himself a kidnaper! Finally, the enchanter Dakimh appeared to scripter **Steve Gerber** and enlisted his aid to help Manny defeat the netherworld demon, **Thog**! Sound complex? MAN-THING was one book where you never knew what would happen next!

Demons also complicated the life of DOCTOR STRANGE, who fell victim to an ambush of the unspeakable **Umar**! While Umar and **Clea's** father, **Orini**, created distractions, **Dormammu** was growing in the center of the Earth, an evil fetus that **Mother Earth** was forced to bear! His "birth," as he crawled horribly out of the Grand Canyon, was prevented when his own sister, Umar, betrayed him to seize power for herself — whereupon Mother Earth joined her power with that of **Doc** and Clea to set matters aright. We learned here that Umar was actually Clea's mother, but that would remain a secret to our heroes for the moment. They had other things on their minds — for **Eternity** had declared Judgment Day for Mankind! Doctor Strange dared to act as Mankind's representative, and prove humanity's worthiness to survive! Would he succeed? NO! So how are we still alive? Heh heh heh — you'll have to wait for our 1976 recap for the awesome answer!

The GHOST RIDER's supernatural skills got a workout in 1975, as he battled **the Incredible Hulk** — and won! With teamwork from his fellow bikers, he discovered there's nothing that can't be done! But would that help him against the ghost of **the Phantom Eagle**? Or **the Trapster**, who kidnaped his newfound friend, **Karen Page**? Or **the Orb**, who also used Karen in a sinister scheme of revenge? Or the demons who possessed his fellow stunt player, **Katy Milner**? **Johnny Blaze** always managed to win out — though sometimes with a little help from his "friend," a bearded holy man who bore a suspicious resemblance to — nah! Couldn't be! Could it? Future issues held the amazing answer!

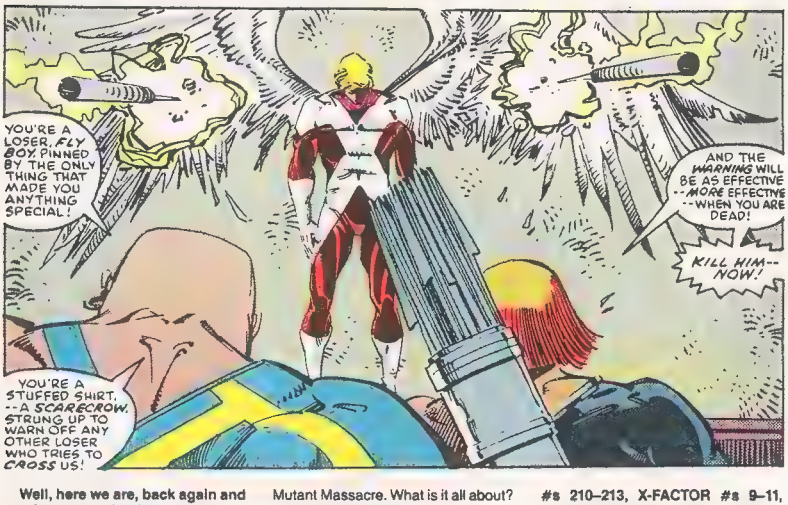
Other scary superstars held the stage briefly in '75: **Simon Garth**, star of TALES OF THE ZOMBIE, was granted 24 hours alive, to wrap up all his storylines! Brother Voodoo replaced him next issue, dueling **Drambu, the Death-Lord**! DEAD OF NIGHT introduced **the Scarecrow**, eldritch guardian protecting our world from a dimension of demons! The magazine MARVEL PREVIEW amazed us with "Man-Gods From Beyond the Stars," the first solo tale of **the Punisher**, the introduction of 1930s daredevil **Dominic Fortune**, and Blade battling **the Legion of the Undead**! MARVEL CHILLERS introduced **Modred the Mystic**, struggling against the legacy of **the Darkhold** that was later to create such problems for **the Avengers**! MARVEL PRESENTS was the home to **Ulysses Bloodstone**, the immortal doomed to battle monsters from beyond until the mystic jewel in his chest would let him rest! Strangest of all, **John Kowalski** was cursed to die a thousand deaths, and in WAR IS HELL he visited the tortured battlefields of Finland, China, Dunkirk, and Norway! The horror craze had infiltrated even war comics!

Nor were humor comics immune; for a few ghoulish laughs, you could pick up an issue of ARRGH! GIANT SIZE CHILLERS and MASTERS OF TERROR served up anthology tales of suspense from classic writers, and UNKNOWN WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION presented exactly that, stunning comics adaptations of works by **Harlan Ellison**, **Robert Silverberg**, **Michael Moorcock**, and a host of other greats! And of course, demons, monsters, and mages ran riot regularly in the pantheon of Marvel sword-and-sorcery mags — but we'll save them for next time! Till then, with the memory of all these adventures into fear fresh in your minds — sweet dreams!

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELTIES

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016


YOU'RE A LOSER, FLY BOY. PINNED BY THE ONLY THING THAT MADE YOU ANYTHING SPECIAL!
AND THE WARNING WILL BE AS EFFECTIVE --MORE EFFECTIVE --WHEN YOU ARE DEAD!
KILL HIM-- NOW!
YOU'RE A STUFFED SHIRT, --A SCARECROW, STRUNG UP TO WARN OFF ANY OTHER LOSER WHO TRIES TO CROSS US!

Well, here we are, back again and out for a good time! Kicking off the festivities this month is Robert C. Sobert of Lake Charles, LA, who suggested the snappy letter column title you see above. Thanks a million, Robert!

Of course, as you probably already know, we change our letter column title as often as we change our socks! (Well, almost as often. We like to change our socks at least *twice* a month!) So give it some thought, and send us your best ideas. If we use your title we'll give you full credit in this space as our way of saying "thanks." Get to it!

Dear Marvel,

I have been reading comics for about four years off and on, but for the past six months or so, I have been really interested in your comics. Mostly, THE AVENGERS (both coasts), THE X-MEN (along with X-FACTOR, THE NEW MUTANTS, etc. . . .), and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, among others. But as I am fairly new to these comics, I was wondering if there is a book or something that gives the history of these titles. CLASSIC X-MEN helps tremendously and I have all the back issues of most of these titles from about a year ago. But I was wondering if there was any other source of information.

Also, I keep hearing about this big Mutant Massacre. What is it all about? And what issue was it in?

Well, 'nuff said for now.

Richard Wills
912 Allen Ct.
Socorro, NM 87801

If you want to catch up on the early days of Marvel, Richard, a good place to start is in the pages of MARVEL SAGA. MARVEL SAGA is chronicling all of Marvel history from the first Marvel comic book, FANTASTIC FOUR #1, all the way up to the present. Another good idea would be to pick up THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AVENGERS and THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE X-MEN for issue-by-issue synopses of everything that ever happened in these series. They join our previous indices to THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE FANASTIC FOUR, and MARVEL TEAM-UP in our never-ending quest to figure out just what we did *last* month.

The Mutant Massacre was the work of a band of evil mutants called the Marauders, who were out to slaughter every mutant in sight! Even the X-Men didn't go untouched by the Massacre; half of them were terribly injured, and some of them are still in critical condition! You can find the gruesome details of the Massacre in X-MEN #s 210–213, X-FACTOR #s 9–11, NEW MUTANTS #46, THOR #s 373–374, and POWER PACK #27.

Dear Pete,

Has Aunt May ever seen your apartment?

Larry Brown
Roanoke, VA

Sure, Larry! Every Tuesday, when she stops by on her way to that Karate class she teaches!

Dear Marvel,

Always, in your letter columns, someone asks you what a No-Prize is. You just completely ignore it and answer the other questions. I have one question for you:

What is a No-Prize?

Answer it or something serious'll happen.

Jason Diamond
1551 Diamond Ave.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Sorry, Jason, what was that question again?

No, no, only kidding.

Actually, when we first created No-Prizes, they were just that — no prizes! There was no contest, no rules, and . . . no prizes! But being the wacky bunch we are, it wasn't long before we started sending out envelopes marked "Congratulations!

This envelope contains a genuine Marvel Comics No-Prize which you have just won!" There was nothing inside the envelope, of course. But you know, we got so carried away that we started making up rules for getting No-Prizes, even though the prizes themselves didn't exist!

Nowadays, we award No-Prizes for getting fairly major mistakes and giving reasonable explanations for them — in other words, getting us off the hook.

How's that for a no-explanation?

And now, we turn the spotlight to this issue's LETTER OF THE MONTH. Each month, we print one letter (or on occasion, two) in a special place of honor because we think it provides a unique outlook, a couple of chuckles, or an unusual bit of controversy. And hoo-boy, does this issue's Letter of the Month provide controversy!

Dear Marvel,

Where have all the heroes gone? We mean this with neither malicious intent nor out of ignorance. Recently, we've become aware of a serious decline in the quality of the books Marvel Comics is publishing.

Depressing storylines and dark, unhappy conflicts seem to be the craze. Marvel's books generally seem to reflect the depressing, dark side of the ideals comic books are supposed to represent. We can look at Marvel's lineup and find very few real "heroes" in the true sense of the word.

We think you take yourselves too seriously.

Recently, Marvel Comics sank to an all-time low in publishing a story (specifically, X-FACTOR #15) in which the Angel, a respected and beloved mutant hero, after being maimed in the Mutant Massacre (another new low — readers love death, readers buy death, therefore let's say to hell with our standards and give 'em LOTS of death) willingly and quite graphically commits suicide.

It has always been our assumption that heroes were role models for children and adults alike, especially in this medium. Watching the Angel take his own life just to forward a storyline was not just depressing, it was infuriating. Anyone who reads X-FACTOR #15 will be left with this message: Give up. There's no hope. We live in a dark, cruel world, and if fictional super heroes can't make it, what hope have we as ordinary humans to survive?

The Marvel Age once stood for that which was new and original — now the only few "new and original" concepts are in your other lines of publishing, Epic and the syrupy Star Comics.

We realize you will probably not print this letter, nor was that the intent of writing it. You have proven yourselves capable of producing great work — why stop now? It is not necessary to portray death and destruction all the time — why are you afraid of the happy ending?

We hope you take our concern seriously.

Alan Michael and
Paul Pickard
1241 Glorieta St.
Albuquerque, NM 87112

You've raised some interesting points in your letter, Alan and Paul, although naturally, we disagree with quite a few of them. First, though, we want to say that we're kind of hurt by your assumption that we wouldn't print your letter (presumably because it was negative). True, we don't print letters that only say, "Boy, do you guys stink," but we don't print letters that just say, "Boy, you guys are amazing," either. Your letter was obviously well thought out, and it's clear that you care about comics. We only regret that we had to cut parts of it because of space limitations.

Now, on to the main point of your letter: Sorry, but we're going to have to disagree with you. What you consider a decline in Marvel's quality is really a reflection of what has always been our greatest strength — the realism with which our characters are portrayed. Whether it's Peter Parker trying to juggle super heroing, a social life, and a career or Scott Summers searching desperately for his missing wife and child, the characters are portrayed as real people. And that means they're not always going to do the right thing.

Should the Angel have tried to kill himself? Of course not. Suicide is stupid. But that doesn't stop thousands of people from trying it each year. And if you've ever known someone who's tried it, you know how hard it is to convince him that he was wrong.

Granted, the Angel's story did not have a happy ending. But contrast that with Hank Pym's attempt at suicide. Hank ended up realizing that life is too precious to throw away, and he came out of it a better man. Hank triumphed where the Angel failed.

No, not every story has a happy ending. But not every story has a sad one either. Just like life, huh?

Anyway, that's our opinion. What do the rest of you think? We'd like to know.

And now, on the lighter side . . .

Dear Sirs,

Please print this letter so I can tell all the fans of **Howard the Duck** that if they liked his film to write to Universal at Universal Studios, 70 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608 and ask for a sequel.

Start up the HOWARD THE DUCK series again on a regular basis and make a HOWARD THE DUCK Graphic Novel.

Chris McDonald
Route 5, Box 217
Chillicothe, MO 64601

Sorry, Chris, no plans for a regular HOWARD series in the near future. But we've been getting quite a bit of mail requesting the return of our favorite foul-tempered fowl. If it keeps up at this rate, well, who knows?

The same thing goes for a second HOWARD movie. We can't say whether or not Universal Studios will ever make a sequel to HOWARD THE DUCK, but it sure can't hurt to let them know how you feel!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

One of my favorite Marvel characters is Katherine Pryde a.k.a. "Kitty, Ariel, Sprint, and presently Shadowcat.

I have one question to ask. I'm not complaining, but how come Kitty has so many names? Thanks for all your time and say "hi" to Kitty and Lockneed for me.

Until Kitty goes out with Irving Forbush, Make Mine Marvel!

Dave Hanson
819 Bush Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Would you believe she's a very confused young woman, Dave?

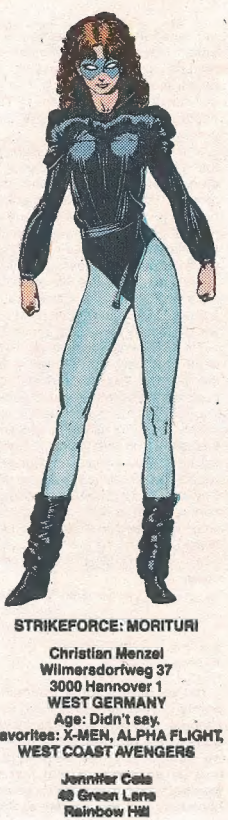
Actually, "Kitty" is a nickname. "Ariel" is the name Professor X picked for Kitty when she joined the X-Men, but she didn't like it, so she called herself "Sprite" instead. After she became sort of an "instant ninja" (sounds like something you'd add water to, doesn't it?), Kitty decided she needed a darker, more mysterious alias and came up with "Shadowcat."

By the way, Kitty said to tell you "hi." Lockheed says "coooooooo."

Ooops! We were having so much fun reading and answering your letters that we almost forgot to tell you the names of the newest MARVEL AGE PEN PALS!

Here they are:

Billy Ray Kennedy Jr.
5002 Geronimo St.
College Park, MD 20740
Age: 21
Favorites: AVENGERS, X-FACTOR, STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI



Christian Menzel
Wilmersdorfweg 37
3000 Hannover 1
WEST GERMANY
Age: Didn't say.
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Jennifer Cole
49 Green Lane
Rainbow Hill
Worcester
WR3 8NY
ENGLAND
Age: Didn't say.
Favorites: NEW MUTANTS, SILVER SURFER, FANTASTIC FOUR

Sonuvagun — from the looks of this international group, our comics sure must get around! We're happy to help bring all our far-flung fans closer together! Now, for all you other fans who want to get in on the fun, here's the scoop: just send your name, address, age, and the names of your three favorite Marvel Comics to MARVEL AGE PEN PALS c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. And while you're at it, toss in a suggestion or two for a nifty name for this section. Pen Pal Column kinda lacks some zip, don't you think? We're counting on you!

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **Maverick** (I admit it, I was watching TOP GUN on VCR while writing this quiz!)

2. General Clayton Abernathy is, of course, the noble head of the Joes, **Hawk**!

3. **Shana O'Hara** (with one N, to keep her distinguished from a certain She-Devil!)

4. **Serpentor** claims to have been there for the invention of pizza — and hey, *I'm* not gonna argue with him!

5. That fashionplate of villainy, **the Baroness**!

6. A near-fatal helicopter crash!

7. The Russian counterpart to the Joes, the **Oktober Guard**!

8. **Multi-Ordinance Battle Tank** (so you see why they call it MOBAT — a few seconds' delay could cost lives!)

9. **Commander Wingfield** (not to be confused with **Amanda Wingfield**, main character of *The Glass Menagerie* — you know how we like to keep you culturally informed!)

10. Dr. Burkhart was the hostage rescued in the Joes' very first mission!

11. **John Kowalski** was the doomed star of WAR IS HELL.

12. The Kid Commandos were **Bucky Barnes**, **Toro**, **the Human Top**, and **Golden Girl**.

13. **Reb Ralston** — so you see, anybody can be elected in America!

14. **Bull McGiveney**, most obnoxious character of the 60s!

15. **Combat Kelly** lived, as did his love, **Laurie Livingston** (though she was crippled by the experiments of a Nazi doctor).

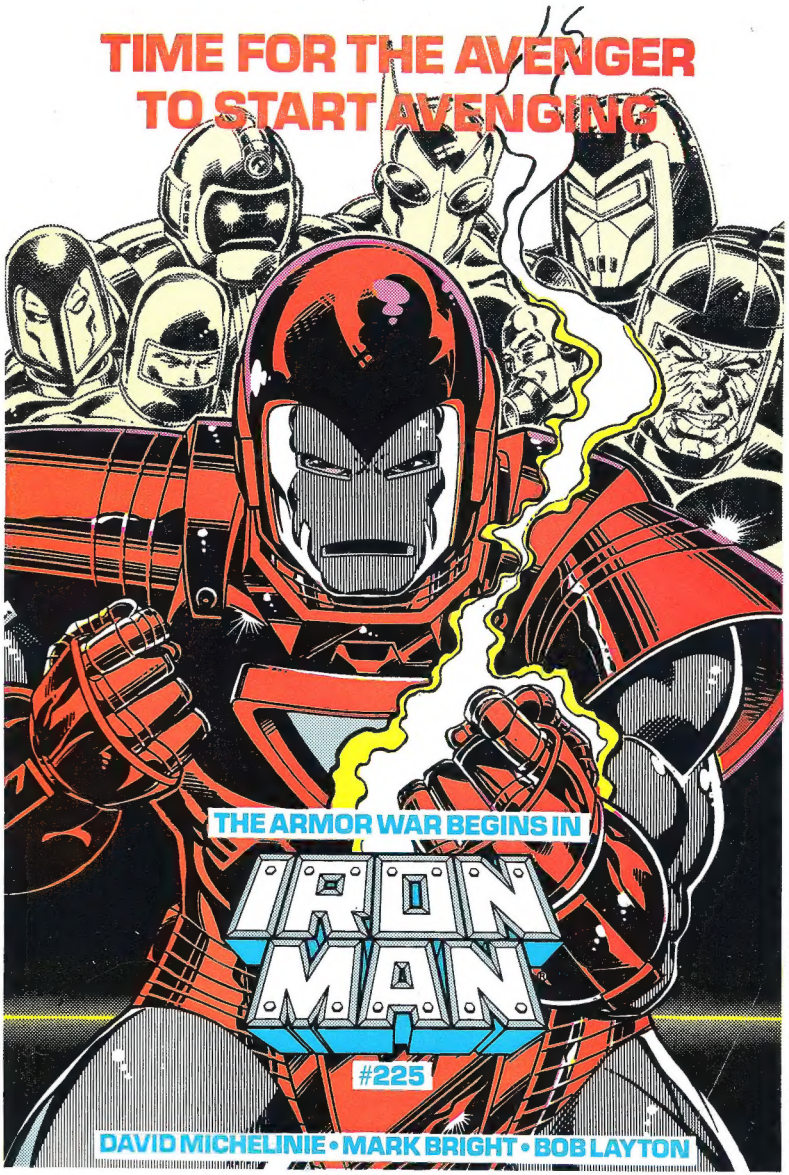
16. **Captain Simon Savage** lost his wife just one issue before he lost his series!

17. **The Phantom Eagle**!

18. Would it help to tell you the story was titled "Objective: **Ben Grimm**"?

19. Shrapnel from a German hand grenade forced the eventual removal of Nick's eye.

20. **Junior Juniper** — does anyone know offhand, was this the first casualty in a Marvel comic?



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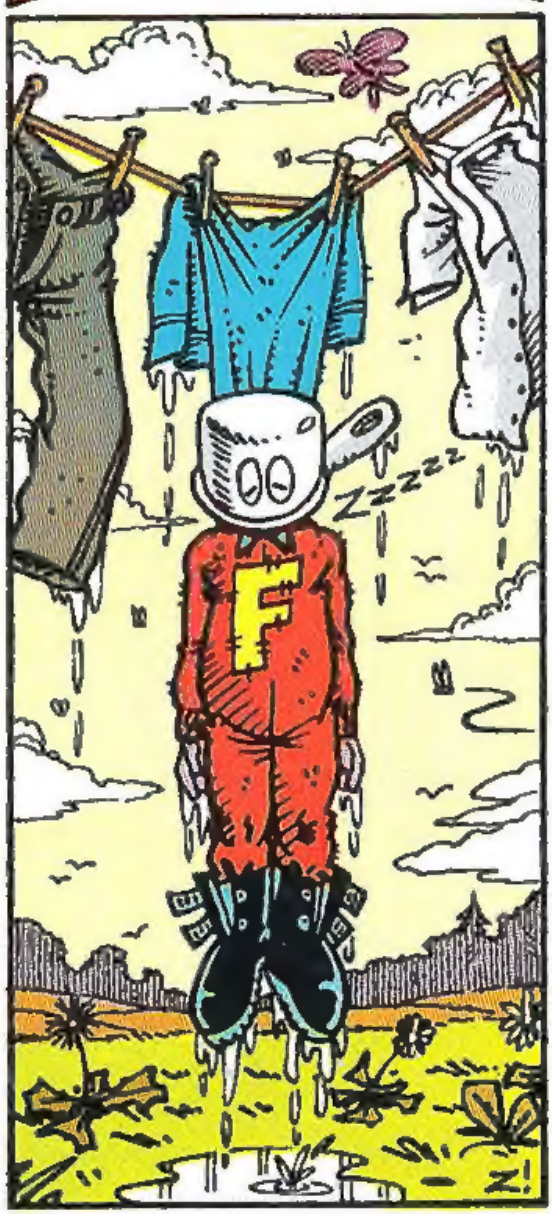
THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

HOT AUGUST



WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
1
ANOTHER TV SERIES WE'D LIKE TO SEE...
...THE GOD COUPLE!
7
8 NOT ONLY IS TOMORROW ALYCE GORDON'S BIRTHDAY...
12
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIM MOONEY!
13
COMICS WE'D LIKE TO SEE... 14
LATENITE COMIX FEATURING: LETTER MAN
I BEEN HYPMO-TIZED!
15
19
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GEORGE ROUSSOS!
FIX THE BEARD, GEORGE.
20
21 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARIE SEVERIN!
AND BOBBIE CHASE!
TOMORROW'S 22 TERRY AUSTIN'S BIRTH-DAY, BUB!
26
27 TODAY IS RICK PARKER, AND DON PERLIN'S BIRTHDAY!
WANNA DRAW THE RO-BOTS, RICK?
IF YOU LETTER IT, DON!
TODAY IS JACK "KING" KIRBY'S BIRTHDAY!
28
29